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THE  
**HISTORY**  
OF THE  
**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,**  
FROM ITS ORIGIN TO THE YEAR 1827,  
BY GEORGE B. WOOD, M.D.

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Read before the Council of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, October 29th, 1827,

AND

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PREFACE. 79

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THE author of the following sketch, having been appointed to deliver the anniversary address before the Philomathean Society of the University of Pennsylvania, in the year 1826, was induced to make some investigations into the history of that institution, the results of which were stated, in general terms, on the occasion referred to. In the course of his inquiries, numerous facts presented themselves, which, though not sufficiently important to claim a place in a brief address, appeared to him too much so to be passed over with neglect; and the idea occurred to him, that a history of the University, for the preparation of which he possessed some materials, was due to the relation in which the Institution was placed to the state and city, and might prove interesting, if not serviceable to the community. He accordingly extended his researches, and having accumulated such additional facts and information as appeared essential to the purpose, drew up the following account of the school, and presented it to the Historical Society, as a body peculiarly interested in whatever concerns the past or present affairs of Pennsylvania, and one to whose judgment he was desirous of submitting



the question of publication. It is proper to state, that, in the collection of his materials, the author had access to the minutes of the University from its origin, in the form of an Academy, in 1749, to the period at which the history closes. His other sources of information were the works of Dr. Franklin and Dr. William Smith, the periodical journals and newspapers, the public documents of the state, and oral or written communications from gentlemen connected with the school. The reader is requested to bear in mind, that the following historical sketch was prepared in the early part of the year 1827; as otherwise he might be led into error, by considering as applicable to the present time, the references which are frequently made to the period at which the author wrote. It would be a satisfaction to the author, to have it in his power to continue the narration down to the present date, and to conclude with an accurate account of the school as it now exists; but the engrossing nature of his avocations renders this impossible; and he will be under the necessity of contenting himself with some brief notices, in the way of notes or appendix, in relation to points in which the most interesting changes have occurred.

*Philadelphia, December 20th, 1833.*



THE  
**HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY**  
OF  
PENNSYLVANIA.

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CHAPTER I.

EARLY EDUCATION IN PHILADELPHIA.—ESTABLISHMENT OF  
THE ACADEMY.—INCORPORATION OF THE COLLEGE.

IN newly settled countries, the necessity of providing for present subsistence, and the desire of securing those comforts which previous habit has rendered indispensable to the enjoyment of life, are apt to divert the attention from objects of less immediate interest. The settlers, while contending with the physical difficulties of their new situation, have little regard for the intellectual wants of their offspring; and forgetting, or imperfectly appreciating the advantages they had themselves enjoyed in early life, think that they perform all the duty of parents, by procuring for their children an exemption from those inconveniences, which they have learned to regard as the greatest evils. Education, therefore, is more or less neglected; and it not unfrequently happens, that the community, contrary to the usual course of

events, falls back, for the first generation, towards a state of ignorance, instead of advancing in knowledge and civilization. This remark applies, to a certain extent, to the early period of our own history. Though a few individuals, born and educated in the colonies, were elevated into distinction by the force of native talent, yet the great majority of those who were remarkable for literary attainments, had either emigrated from the mother country, or had received their education in her schools.

The first colonists of Pennsylvania, were, perhaps, less negligent in providing the means of elementary instruction, than those of most of the other settlements. In the year 1689, only seven years after the foundation of Philadelphia, a public school was established in this city, by members of the Society of Friends, which was incorporated in 1697, and after undergoing various changes in its organization, received, in 1711, a final charter from William Penn. Fifteen "discreet and religious persons, of the people called Quakers," were constituted a Board of Overseers, and were vested with all the property and privileges of the corporation, together with the right of supplying vacancies in their own numbers. George Keith, a native of Aberdeen, a man of learning, and famous in the history of the Friends, was the first teacher employed. In the school were taught the Latin language, the Mathematics, and the rudiments of an English education. Though supported by funds derived from the Society of Friends, and under the exclusive direction of members of that society, it was open indiscriminately to individuals of all religious denominations; and for more than sixty years, continued to be the only public place of instruction in the province.

But, before the end of this period, the school had become entirely inadequate to the demand of a rapidly increasing

population; and though private schools were not wanting, still the means even of elementary education were very deficient.\* In the higher branches of knowledge, instruction was accessible only to the sons of the wealthy, who were able to support the expense of a residence abroad, either in the mother country, or in one of the older colonies of New England. There was, therefore, an urgent demand for a seminary, founded upon liberal principles, and embracing within its plan all those subjects of study, which are necessary to qualify the youth of a growing and prosperous community for the performance of the various duties of public and private life.

A want so obvious could not escape the penetration of our great Franklin; and, with his active and patriotic spirit, to be convinced of any public deficiency, was at once to use every exertion for its supply. His attention was accordingly directed, at a very early period, to the means of extending the benefits of education in the city and province; and in the year 1743, he drew up the plan of an academy, which he communicated to the Reverend Richard Peters, with the hope, that, as this gentleman was then out of employ, he might be induced to take upon himself the superintendence of such an establishment. Failing, however, in obtaining the desired co-operation, and occupied with other public affairs, which appeared to be of more pressing importance, he dropped the scheme for the time; and the war which soon afterwards broke out between Great Britain and France, the effects of which were extended to the colonies, prevented its renewal for several years. Upon the conclusion of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, and the consequent restoration of tranquillity in

\* It appears from an extract from the Journal of the Council, given by Proud, in his History of Pennsylvania, that a school was opened in Philadelphia, so early as the year 1683, by Enoch Flower, a native of Wiltshire, who taught reading, writing, and casting accounts for eight shillings a quarter.



the provinces, his thoughts reverted to the subject; and in the year 1749, he entered with zeal upon such measures as he supposed would most promote the success of the project. As the first step, he endeavoured to interest in his favour several friends; of whom Thomas Hopkinson, Tench Francis, and the Reverend Richard Peters, seem to have been the most active and efficient. Having secured their approbation and assistance, he next proceeded to write and publish a pamphlet, entitled "Proposals relative to the Education of Youth in Pennsylvania," which he took care to circulate extensively among the most respectable inhabitants of the city. The proposals attracted much attention, and several of the most influential citizens, to the number of twenty-four, having met together, determined to associate themselves into a Board of Trustees, for the purpose of carrying the design into effect.\* Their first object was to establish certain regulations for their own government. It was determined that they should not "for any services by them as trustees performed, claim or receive any reward or compensation." It was also determined, that the original number of twenty-four, should "always be continued, but never exceed upon any motive whatsoever;" and that vacancies should be supplied by the choice of the board from among the inhabitants of Philadelphia, or persons residing in its immediate neighbourhood. These rules were established as fundamental,

\* Among the names of those gentlemen are many which are still well known and highly esteemed in Philadelphia. They were James Logan, Thomas Lawrence, William Allen, John Inglis, Tench Francis, William Masters, Lloyd Zackary, Samuel Mc. Call jr., Joseph Turner, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Leech, William Shippen, Robert Strettell, Philip Syng, Charles Willing, Phineas Bond, Richard Peters, Abraham Taylor, Thomas Bond, Thomas Hopkinson, William Plumsted, Joshua Maddox, Thomas White, and William Coleman. Benjamin Franklin was chosen president, and William Coleman treasurer of the board.

and declared to be unalterable: others were also drawn up, adapted to the object in view, but alterable at the pleasure of the board. They were signed by the trustees on the 13th of November, 1749.

Having thus constituted themselves governors of the proposed institution, they proceeded to provide funds for its establishment; and on the day following that of the signature, very liberally subscribed among themselves a sum exceeding two thousand pounds, to be raised in five yearly payments, "declaring it to be for the encouragement of their useful, good, and charitable undertaking; and to enable themselves and their successors to begin, promote, continue, and enlarge the same, humbly hoping, through the favour of Almighty God, and the bounty and patronage of pious and well disposed persons, that it might be of great and lasting benefit to the present and future rising generations." To the amount thus contributed, very considerable additions were afterwards made by subscriptions among the citizens, by gifts and legacies from charitable individuals, and by various other means which will be noticed more particularly hereafter. But as these funds were not immediately available, it was necessary, in the commencement, to have recourse to a loan, and the trustees accordingly borrowed eight hundred pounds, on their own joint bond.

The next object was to procure a suitable building; and in this, they were remarkably fortunate.\* The celebrated Whitfield had arrived in America a few years before this pe-

\* I find it mentioned on the minutes of the board of trustees, that a lot of ground in Sixth Street was offered to them by James Logan, upon which to erect an academy, "provided it should be built within the term of 14 years." The offer was declined, as "*the new building* was, in all respects, better suited to their present circumstances and future views." The trustees, however, expressed "a most grateful sense of his regard to the academy," and returned him "their sincere thanks for his kind and generous offer."

riod. Though excluded from the churches of Philadelphia, and compelled to preach in the fields, such was the power of his eloquence, that immense crowds were collected to hear him, and a fervour of religious feeling was excited in the community, of which the annals of the country had afforded no previous example. In this state of the public mind, it was proposed to erect an edifice, which might serve the double purpose of a charity school, and a place of public worship for Whitfield, and other ministers of the gospel, similarly circumstanced. Little difficulty was experienced in obtaining adequate subscriptions; a lot was procured in Fourth, near the corner of Mulberry Street; and a large building was speedily raised, which is still standing, and well known to Philadelphians by the name of *the academy*.\* At that time, however, it was called *the new building*, and as people of almost every religious denomination had been concerned in its erection, it was vested in trustees selected from different sects, among whom were Whitfield and Franklin. But the lot having been purchased on ground rent, and money having been borrowed for the completion of the building, the trustees, after the expiration of a few years, found themselves involved in an increasing debt, which the subsidence of the original enthusiasm left them without the means of discharging. Things were in this condition, when the project of an academy was announced. It was thought that the objects of both establishments might be attained by a combination of their resources; and as Franklin was a member of each body of trustees, an agreement was effected, by his agency, satisfactory to both parties. A conveyance of the new building was made to the trustees

\* It may be proper to state, that one-half of this building has been recently removed, and a church erected on its site by a Society of Methodists.—*December, 1833.*



of the academy, on the conditions, that the debt, now amounting to nearly eight hundred pounds, should be discharged; that a free-school should be maintained on the premises; and that in the house already built, or in one to be built for the purpose, a place of worship should be set apart for the occasional use of such ministers of the gospel as the trustees might judge qualified to "teach the word of God;" and especially, that its free and uninterrupted use should be permitted to the Rev. Mr. George Whitfield, "whenever he should happen to be in the city, and desire to preach therein." These conditions have been complied with; and to this day a charity school has been maintained, and a room kept open in the building, for the convenience of itinerant preachers. This transaction took place in December, 1749; but, as many alterations were to be made in the edifice to fit it for the new purposes to which it was to be applied, and the trustees were desirous of carrying their design into immediate effect, it became necessary to procure temporary accommodations; and the schools were first opened in a private house. It was not till the commencement of the year 1751, that they were introduced into the new hall; on which occasion, the usual solemnities were observed, and a sermon was preached by the Rev. Richard Peters.\*

The views of the trustees were at first wisely directed to the communication of that elementary knowledge, which is most essential to the citizens of a rising community, and the acquisition of which is a necessary step towards the attainment of the higher branches. For the present, therefore, they restricted their establishment within the limits of a

\* This gentleman, though a clergyman, was employed in the secular office of provincial secretary. He was a man of high standing, and very considerable influence; and was the successor of Franklin in the presidency of the board of trustees.

simple academy, deferring a further extension of the scheme, till the success of their first efforts should have demonstrated its practicability, and smoothed the way for its accomplishment.

In the academy were embraced one school for the Latin, one for English, and one for the Mathematics, under the care of three masters with their assistant ushers, the principal of whom had the title of rector. A charity school was also opened, in which the children of poor citizens were instructed gratis. It is worthy of observation, that among the teachers originally employed in the academy was Charles Thompson, afterwards rendered conspicuous by his office of secretary to the Revolutionary Congress, and venerable in the recollection of Philadelphians for his virtues and abilities, as well as for the advanced age which he attained. He was, during four years, one of the tutors in the Latin school, at the end of which time he left it in pursuit of other business, having discharged the duties of his office with entire satisfaction to his superiors.

Finding the schools to prosper, and to present a good prospect of permanent usefulness, the trustees resolved to apply for a charter, which was readily granted them by the proprietors. By this instrument, which bears date July 13th, 1753, they were incorporated by the name of the "Trustees of the Academy and Charitable School in the province of Pennsylvania."

A continuance of prosperity soon induced them to extend their views beyond the limits within which they had originally restricted themselves. To the branches before taught, were now added Logic, Rhetoric, Natural and Moral Philosophy; and it was as a teacher of these sciences that the Rev. Wm. Smith, who in the future became highly distinguished, was introduced into the institution. The study of the Greek Language was joined with that of Latin; and a

course of instruction having thus been adopted equal in extent to that usually pursued in the highest seminaries, nothing more was requisite to place the academy of Philadelphia on the footing of a collegiate establishment, than the right of assuming the title, and the privilege of conferring degrees upon the students. The hope of obtaining collegiate honours has always exercised a powerful influence over the youthful mind; and every seminary, however extensive may be its plan, and whatever the qualifications of the teachers, must labour under great disadvantages, if destitute of that command over the diligence of its pupils, with which the power of giving or withholding these honours invests it. As the effects of this deficiency in the academy began to be experienced in the desertion of some of the best students, who sought in other seminaries that testimonial of their proficiency which was denied them in their own; it was recommended by the teachers to the board of trustees, that application should be made for such additions to their charter as might invest them with the rights of a collegiate body. The application was accordingly made; and an additional charter was granted by the proprietors, dated June 16th, 1755, by which the former style of the board was changed into that of "The Trustees of the College, Academy, and Charitable School of Philadelphia," and all the powers conferred upon them, which are usually attached to such a title. The condition, however, was annexed to this charter, that the trustees and professors, before entering on the performance of their offices, should respectively take and subscribe the customary oaths or affirmations of allegiance to the King of Great Britain.



## CHAPTER II.

ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT OF THE COLLEGE.—  
FIRST GRADUATES.—PROSPERITY OF THE COLLEGE.

It may not be amiss to describe more particularly the organization and mode of government of the institution, at this period. It consisted of three departments, those of the college, academy, and charity schools, the last of which, however, was connected with the two former in no other way than as it was under the authority of the same board of trustees. The college and academy were much less distinct. They were not only connected through the medium of the trustees, but were managed by the same faculty of professors; and the students belonging to the two departments were often mingled together in the same classes. The distinction seems to have been simply this, that those pupils whose object was to go through a regular course of instruction, and ultimately receive the honour of graduation, were considered as members of the college; those who attended merely the English and mathematical schools, without pursuing classical or philosophical studies, as members of the Academy; and they were associated under the same teachers only when engaged in those subjects which were common to all. By this arrangement, while young men desirous of a liberal education, either as a preparation for entering upon one of the learned professions, or simply as an accomplishment, were provided with the means of attaining it, others, of humbler views, and with more limited resources, were enabled to acquire a degree of knowledge suitable to their future prospects. The plan

was well adapted to the condition of the country at a time, when schools, even of the inferior kind, were scarce, and it was desirable to effect much at as little expense as possible. At a subsequent period, however, this complexity of arrangement operated to the disadvantage of the higher branch of the seminary, both by taking away that unity of object, which in this, as well as all other pursuits, is essential to the greatest success, and by producing on the public mind an impression, that the whole institution was calculated rather for primary instruction than for completing the education of youth.

In the collegiate department was a grammar school, in which boys were taught the rudiments of the learned languages, previously to their entrance into the regular classes of the college. Of these classes there were only three, the freshman, junior, and senior; and the term of study was confined to the same number of years. Experience has shown that this period is too short for the attainment of the requisite knowledge by youth of ordinary abilities and industry; and, in the competition which afterward arose among the numerous colleges of this country, the arrangement was injurious to the interests of the school of Philadelphia. But, at first, no disadvantage was experienced, and, perhaps, the prospect of a speedy completion of the preparatory studies, tended to favour its success at a time, when it was necessary for young men to commence the business of life at as early a period as possible.

The college and academy were under the immediate direction of a faculty, composed of the professors, of whom the principal had the title of provost, and the second in authority, that of vice-provost and rector of the academy. The professors, five in number, were assisted, when necessary, by ushers, who were possessed of no authority in the government of the institution. The duties of the faculty, were to

meet, occasionally, and inquire into the condition of the schools, and conduct of the scholars; to see that the laws were observed, and the plans of education carried into effect; and, when any deficiency in the arrangements of the institution was observable, to propose such regulation for the sanction of the trustees, as they might deem likely to be conducive to its prosperity.

On the charitable foundation, there were two schools, one for boys, and another for girls, which were taught respectively by a master and mistress, with occasional assistants. The boys were instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic; the girls in reading, writing, and sewing. The schools were under the immediate care of the trustees, to whom applications for admittance were to be made. The number of charity scholars was seldom much short of one hundred.

The whole property and government of the institution were, by the charter, vested in the board of trustees, which retained its original constitution. In conferring the powers before mentioned upon the faculty of the college and academy, the trustees reserved to themselves the exclusive privileges of making laws; of appointing all the officers of the seminary; of inflicting on the students the severer punishments of degradation, suspension, and expulsion; of conferring the ordinary and honorary degrees; and finally, of deciding in all matters of high importance to the institution. But in every thing which related to the students, though, for fear of abuse, they thus reserved the power in their own hands, they generally decided according to the recommendation of the faculty, whose better opportunities of forming an accurate judgment entitled them to this deference.\*

The first commencement of the college took place on the

\* The names of the first trustees have been mentioned in a previous note. The following is a list of those who were subsequently elected members of the board, up to the period of its dissolution. They are given in the order



17th of May, 1757, when its honours were conferred on seven young men who had completed their education within its walls. The names of these earliest graduates were Paul Jackson, Jacob Duché, Francis Hopkinson,\* Samuel Magaw, Hugh Williamson, James Latta, and John Morgan.

From this period, the institution rose rapidly in importance. The extent and liberality of its plan, conjoined with the excellence of its management, secured it the patronage of the neighbouring population; and it soon acquired a celebrity which attracted numerous students from the distant co-

of their election. It will be observed that the highest station, influence, and talent in the province, were secured in the government of the college.

Isaac Norris, Thomas Cadwalader, James Hamilton, Alexander Stedman, John Mifflin, Benjamin Chew, Edward Shippen, jr., William Coxe, Thomas Willing, Jacob Duché, jr., Lynford Lardner, Amos Strettell, Andrew Elliott, John Redman, John Penn, John Lawrence, John Allen, Isaac Jones, Richard Penn, Samuel Powell, Thomas Mifflin, William White, James Tilghman, Robert Morris, Francis Hopkinson, George Clymer, Alexander Wilcox, John Cadwalader, and James Wilson.

It has been mentioned that Dr. Franklin was the first president of the board. He was succeeded in that office by the Rev. Richard Peters, who was first elected in the year 1756, and was annually re-elected until the year 1764, when the state of his health rendering his absence from the country requisite, his place was supplied by the Hon. James Hamilton, then governor of the province. Mr. Hamilton having gone to England during the same year, the Hon. John Penn, who succeeded him as governor, was appointed to the presidency of the board. In the year 1771, Mr. Penn left the province, and Mr. Hamilton, having returned, was re-elected. At the time of the dissolution of the board, the Hon. Richard Penn, who followed Mr. Hamilton as governor, filled the office of its president.

\* With regard to Mr. Hopkinson, the following is an extract from the minutes of the board of trustees, of May 20th, 1766. "It was resolved, that as Francis Hopkinson, Esq., who was the first scholar in this seminary at its opening, and likewise one of the first who received a degree, was about to embark for England, and has done honour to the place of his education by his abilities and good morals, as well as rendered it many substantial services on all public occasions, the thanks of this institution ought to be delivered to him, in the most affectionate and respectful manner."

lonies. From Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas, it received much support; and even in the West Indies, many planters preferred it, for the education of their children, to the schools of England. Among the individuals who at various times received its honours, were many who afterwards attained great distinction in their professional, literary, or political career, and thus contributed to spread and exalt its reputation. Both in the advantages which it offered, and the actual support which it received, it was, perhaps, unrivalled, certainly not surpassed by any other seminary at that time existing in the provinces. Only two years after the charter was granted, the number of pupils in the institution amounted to about three hundred, one-third of whom were members of the collegiate department.\* In the year 1763, according to a statement made by the provost, nearly four hundred individuals were receiving their education in the various branches of the seminary. To appreciate fully the prosperity to be implied from this extensive support, we must take into consideration the limited population and wealth of the country at that period, and must recollect that the colonies had just emerged from a long and cruel war, which had ravaged their borders, exhausted their resources, and even threatened the subversion of their liberties.

The students who came from a distance were, at first, on the same footing with those who resided permanently in the city. Boarding separately, wherever their own inclination, or that of their friends might prompt, they attended the schools during the regular hours, but, in the intervals, had the complete control of their own time and conduct.

\* In a list of the pupils in the English school, made in the commencement of the year 1757, I observed the name of Lindley Murray, in all probability the same with that Lindley Murray who has acquired so much fame as the author of the best English Grammar, and who recently died in England.

Inconveniences were thought to arise from this arrangement, which led to the proposition, that a house should be built in the vicinity of the college, sufficiently large for the accommodation of the students from other provinces and the West Indies, where they might be more immediately beneath the eye of the professors, more convenient to the schools, and, at the same time, boarded at less expense than in private families. The trustees, to enable themselves to effect this purpose, without encroaching upon their capital, which was then very small, issued proposals for a lottery; by which, as the contemplated measure was generally approved, they succeeded, in a short time, in raising a sum exceeding two thousand pounds. This was immediately applied to the proposed object; and, in the year 1762, a suitable building was erected on a lot of ground belonging to the trustees, on the north side of the college, where it still stands. The lower story was appropriated to the charity schools, the remainder of the house to the reception of students, who were placed under the care of a steward,\* and were subjected to such rules as were deemed necessary to maintain order, and promote their health, comfort, and morals. This plan, though not attended with all those advantages which had been anticipated, had been carried into effect at too great an expense of money and trouble to be hastily abandoned; and it appears to have been continued, till the operations of the college were suspended during the war of the revolution.

\* Mr. Kinnersley, one of the professors, performed for many years the duties of steward.



## CHAPTER III.

## PROVOST AND PROFESSORS OF THE COLLEGE.

As the success of the institution was attributable more to the diligence and abilities of the professors, than, perhaps, to any other cause, we should be doing injustice to their deserts, as well as presenting a very incomplete view of the school itself, were we to pass over, without particular notice, the most prominent among the gentlemen who filled the collegiate chairs.

The first provost, the Rev. Dr. William Smith, was eminent for his various learning, and general ability. Many yet living can bear witness to his eloquence as a preacher; and his published works exhibit, in a very favourable light, his powers of composition. Born and educated in Great Britain, he emigrated to this country about the commencement of the year 1754, and soon after his arrival, was employed in the academy to teach those higher branches, which were at that time introduced into its course of studies. In the performance of this duty, he acquitted himself so well, and, in other respects, gave so much satisfaction to the trustees, that when the institution assumed the form of a college, he was unanimously chosen to fill the office of provost. Thus placed at the head of the seminary, he not only employed in its support the talents for teaching, with which he was eminently endowed; but also exerted himself, with much zeal and success, in enlarging its pecuniary resources. Though, for a

time, rendered unpopular with the predominant party, by interfering in those contentions between the legislature and the governors which formed the principal feature in the local politics of the province, he was yet enabled by his talents to command the respect of the public; and in Great Britain, such was the esteem in which he was held, that on a visit he was induced to make to that country, in the year 1759, to escape the resentment of the Pennsylvania legislature, he was received into the highest society, and, at the recommendation of the archbishop of Canterbury and several of the principal bishops, was honoured by the University of Oxford, with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.\* The circumstance which exposed him to the ill-will of a numerous party at home, secured him the favour of the proprietors and their friends; and by the influence which he possessed in England, he was enabled, at a subsequent period, very materially to promote the interests of the college. His exertions in its favour were indeed such as frequently called forth the decided approbation of the trustees; and though absent on several occasions, and at one time put under arrest by the legislature, his talents and influence were thought so essential to the prosperity of the school, that he was always maintained in his station, and teachers, when necessary, were temporarily employed to supply his place. On the occasion of his arrest, the classes under his care were directed to attend him at his place of confinement. As the events of Dr. Smith's life are intimately connected with the history of the institution over which he presided, we shall have more than one opportunity of again alluding to them, in the details which follow.

The office of vice-provost and rector of the academy, was occupied by the Rev. Dr. Francis Allison. This gentleman

\* At a subsequent period the same honour was conferred on him by the universities of Aberdeen and Dublin.

had long been engaged in the business of instruction, and was among the first who established regular schools in the province. That he must have acquired considerable eminence as a teacher, is evinced by the fact, that at a time when honorary degrees were in much higher esteem than at present, that of Doctor of Divinity was spontaneously conferred upon him by the University of Glasgow. Before his election to the vice-provostship, he had for several years been attached to the academy as rector, and master of the Latin school.\* As in the case of Dr. Smith, his election was unanimous; and the names of both these gentlemen, with their respective titles, were, by direction of the trustees, inserted in the charter of the college. Their duties, as professors, were to preside over the philosophical studies of the different classes, and Dr. Allison assisted also in teaching the languages. For more than twenty years they were the main supports of the institution, with which they remained connected up to the period of that change in its affairs which was brought about during the troubles of the revolution.

Of the other members of the faculty, the Rev. Ebenezer Kinnersley, professor of English and oratory, was perhaps the most conspicuous. Having been associated with Franklin in the prosecution of his investigations into the subject of electricity, he acquired a taste for that science, which induced him to procure a set of apparatus, calculated to exhibit an exemplification of its newly discovered principles, by varied and pleasing experiments. Thus provided, and at the time engaged in no other employment, he was prevailed on by Franklin to exhibit these experiments publicly, and to accompany them with explanatory lectures; the first, probably,

\* The first rector of the academy was a Mr. Martin, who died very suddenly, soon after his appointment, and was succeeded by Dr. Allison, who then resided in Chester county, and was invited by the trustees to fill the vacant place.



which were delivered on a scientific subject in Philadelphia. The plan succeeded so much to his satisfaction, that he made a journey through most of the colonies, delivering his lectures in the capital towns, and even visited the West Indies on the same errand. In an article of the American Magazine for October, 1758, written, there is every reason to believe, by Dr. Smith, it is stated, that Mr. Kinnersley was "the chief inventor of the electrical apparatus, as well as author of a considerable part of those discoveries in electricity published by Mr. Franklin, to whom he communicated them. Indeed," the author of the paper goes on to say, "Mr. Franklin himself mentions his name with honour, though he has not been careful enough to distinguish between their particular discoveries. This, perhaps, he may have thought needless, as they were known to act in concert. But though that circumstance was known here, it was not so in the remote parts of the world to which the fame of these discoveries has extended." Coming, as this account probably does, from one so closely associated with the subject of it as the provost of the college must have been with one of the professors, it may be received as the statement of Mr. Kinnersley himself. It must, however, be confessed, that Franklin, in his memoirs, has admitted no claim of this or any other person to a participation in the discoveries which he made and announced; but merely states, that he resorted to the assistance of Mr. Kinnersley, as a neighbour and man of leisure, in the performance of his experiments. The electrical apparatus collected by Mr. Kinnersley must have been extensive; for after his death, it was purchased by the trustees of the college, according to a valuation made by impartial and well qualified judges, for the sum of five hundred pounds.\* Mr. Kinnersley was introduced into the institution in the year 1753, as the successor of David James Dove, who was

\* It is proper to state that this estimate was made during the revolution, at a period when the legal currency had very much depreciated.

the first teacher of the English school. In 1772, the state of his health rendering a voyage to a warm climate advisable, he resigned his station, after having performed its duties for the space of nineteen years.

The professorship of the languages was originally filled by Paul Jackson, who, in the year 1758, left the institution on account of ill health, and was succeeded by John Beveridge. This gentleman had, when young, taught a grammar school in Edinburgh, under the patronage of the celebrated Ruddiman, from whom, as well as from other men of note, he brought with him to this country strong testimonials both of his ability and good conduct. When invited to connect himself with the Philadelphia college, he was residing at Hartford, in Connecticut, where he had for some time been conducting a private Latin school with great success. As a classical scholar he was thought to be inferior to none in the colonies. Some of his compositions in Latin are still extant in our older Magazines, and evince a familiarity with that language, which, with his long habit of teaching, must have well qualified him for his station in the college. Upon his death in 1767, James Davidson, who had previously kept a school in Newark, was appointed to the professorship.

Of the earliest mathematical professor, very little seems to be known. His name was Theophilus Grew, and it would appear, from a slight notice contained in an article of the American Magazine before alluded to, that he had "long been an approved teacher of mathematics and astronomy" in Philadelphia. He was attached to the institution at its origin, and continued so till his death in 1759. Hugh Williamson, a graduate of the school, succeeded to his station.

This brief account of the early professors, will not be thought misplaced by those who feel an interest in the spread of learning, science, and the arts of civilization in a young country, and are willing to do justice to those who made the promotion of this object the business of their lives.

## CHAPTER IV.

## ORIGIN OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

THOUGH the college of Philadelphia was later in its origin than some similar institutions in the older settlements, it may nevertheless boast the honour of having established a medical school, the first in point of time, as it has always been the greatest in merit and success of all upon this continent. It does not come within the design of the present sketch, to give even a very general account of the rise, progress, and ultimate prosperity of this department of the college, which of itself affords a subject so distinct and copious, as well to deserve a separate and minute consideration. We may, however, be allowed to notice a few circumstances, connected with the earliest period of its history.\*

\* The following extract of a letter from James Logan to Colonel Hunter, Governor of New York, dated 5th month 1st, 1717-18, contains the earliest account we have seen of a proposition to deliver medical lectures in Philadelphia. The individual referred to was Dr. Colden.

“All I know of that bill is only this. He came to me one day, to desire my opinion of a proposal to get an Act of Assembly for an allowance to him as physician for the poor of this place. I told him I thought very well of the thing, but doubted whether it could be brought to bear in the house. Not long after, K. Hill showed me a bill for this purpose, put into his hands by the governor, with two farther provisions in it, which were, that a public physical lecture should be held in Philadelphia, to the support of which every unmarried man, above the age of twenty-one years, should pay six shillings and eight-pence or an English crown yearly, and that the corpses of all persons whatever that died here, should be visited by an appointed physician who should receive for his trouble three shillings and four-pence. These things I owned were very commendable, but doubted our Assembly would never go into them, that of the lecture especially.”



By a letter from Dr. William Shippen to the board of trustees, written in September, 1765, it appears that the institution of a medical school in this city, had long been a favourite object with him, and that in an introductory lecture to a course of anatomy, delivered three years previously to the date of the letter, he had publicly announced his belief in the expediency and practicability of the measure. Having, when in England, communicated his plan to Dr. John Morgan,\* who was then prosecuting his medical studies in that country, he had resolved to postpone any attempt to carry it into effect, till the return of that gentleman should afford an opportunity of securing his co-operation. In the mean time, however, Dr. Morgan had interested in favour of the project several influential individuals in England; and it was proposed that a school of medicine should be engrafted on the Philadelphia college, the professors to be appointed, and the degrees to be conferred, as in the other department. Among those who exhibited the strongest interest in the affair were Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Peters, former presidents of the board, at that time residing in Great Britain, and Thomas Penn, the proprietary of Pennsylvania; from all of whom Dr. Morgan, on his return to Philadelphia, brought letters to the trustees, strongly advising the adoption of his plan, and recommending the Doctor himself to their choice, as one of the professors.† These letters were presented to the

\* The gentlemen already mentioned among the first graduates of the college.

† The following is the letter from Mr. Penn, extracted from the minutes of the board of trustees.

“Dr. Morgan has laid before me a proposal for introducing new professorships into the college, for the instruction of all such as shall incline to go into the study and practice of physic and surgery, as well as the several occupations attending upon these necessary and useful arts. He thinks his scheme, if patronised by the trustees, will at present give reputation and

board at a special meeting, accompanied with a written proposal from Dr. Morgan, "setting forth his plan of opening medical schools under the patronage and government of the college, and intimating his desire to be appointed professor of the theory and practice of physic." The trustees approved the scheme, and "entertaining a high sense of Dr. Morgan's abilities, and the honours paid to him by different learned bodies and societies in Europe," unanimously appointed him to the office for which he applied. The date of this event, the 3d of May, 1765, is deserving of commemoration, as the birth day, in America, of that system of medical education, which has been carried to such high perfection, and has so

strength to the institution, and though it may for some time occasion a small expense, yet after a little while it will gradually support itself, and even make considerable additions to the academy funds."

"Dr. Morgan has employed his time in an assiduous search after knowledge, in all the branches necessary for the practice of his profession, and has gained such esteem and love from persons of the first rank in it, that as they very much approve his plan, they will from time to time, as he assures us, give him their countenance and assistance in the execution of it. We are made acquainted with what is proposed to be taught, and how lectures may be adopted by you, and since the like systems have brought much advantage to every plan where they have been received, and such learned and eminent men speak favourably of the Doctor's plan, I could not but in the most kind manner recommend him to you, and desire that he may be well received, and what he has to offer be taken, with all becoming respect and expedition, into your most serious consideration; and if it shall be thought necessary to go into it, and thereupon to offer professorships, that he may be taken into your service."

"When you have heard him, and duly considered what he has to lay before you, you will be best able to judge in what manner you can serve the public, the institution, and the particular design now recommended to you.

I am, gentleman,

Your affectionate friend,

THOMAS PENN."

*London, February 15th, 1765.*

powerfully tended to advance the profession in knowledge, reputation, and usefulness.

In the following September, Dr. William Shippen, upon application to the board, was unanimously chosen professor of anatomy and surgery. Dr. Adam Kuhn was afterwards made professor of botany and materia medica, and Dr. Benjamin Rush, of chemistry. This last appointment was preceded by a letter from the proprietors to the trustees, written at the request of Dr. Fothergill, recommending Dr. Rush to their notice as an expert chemist, and requesting their acceptance of a suitable chemical apparatus. At the same time that instruction was given to the students by these gentlemen in their respective branches, a course of clinical lectures was delivered by Dr. Thomas Bond, in the Pennsylvania Hospital.

In the year 1767, a system of rules was adopted, necessary for the proper organization of this new school. Two grades of medical honours were established, corresponding with those in the department of the arts and sciences. The qualifications for the first degree, or that of bachelor in medicine, were a competent acquaintance with the Latin language, and with those branches of mathematics and natural philosophy which were deemed necessary prerequisites to a good medical education; the serving of a sufficient apprenticeship with some reputable practitioner of physic; a general knowledge of pharmacy; and finally, an attendance upon at least one complete course of lectures, and on the practice of the hospital for one year. To obtain the degree of doctor of medicine, it was necessary that the applicant should have been a bachelor of medicine for at least three years, should have attained the age of twenty-four, should write a thesis, and, except in cases of absence abroad, or in some distant part of the colonies, should defend this thesis publicly in the college.



It will be perceived that this system differs materially from that now in operation; and the modern has, in several respects, a decided advantage. Perhaps it would have been well to preserve that regulation, which demanded a previous knowledge of the Latin language, the neglect of which is too common among medical students of the present day.

The first medical commencement was held on the 21st of June, 1768, when the following gentlemen received their bachelor's degree:—John Archer of Newcastle county, Benjamin Cowell of Bucks, Samuel Duffield and Jonathan Potts of Philadelphia, Jonathan Elmer of N. Jersey, Humphrey Fullerton of Lancaster county, David Jackson of Chester county, John Lawrence of E. Jersey, James Tilton of Kent county on Delaware, and Nicholas Way of Wilmington.

Such was the origin of a school, which, by the talents and industry of its successive teachers, has attained a station little inferior to that of the most celebrated in Europe; which has for a long time diffused medical knowledge, in copious streams, over the whole of this widely extended country, and given birth to numerous similar institutions, emulous of their parent school in honour and usefulness; which, while it affords to its officers a dignity in rank and an affluence in subsistence beyond any other private association on the continent, at the same time imparts to the city in which it is located, a degree of prosperity and reputation which the most sanguine of its founders never ventured to anticipate from its operations.

## CHAPTER V.

## FINANCES OF THE COLLEGE.

Our view of the college would be incomplete without some account of its financial concerns. The original fund with which the trustees ventured on their undertaking was the sum of two thousand pounds, payable in five annual instalments, subscribed by the individual members of the board. To this sum a very considerable addition was soon made by subscriptions, on the same terms, obtained among the inhabitants of the city; and the resources of the institution were afterwards augmented by donations\* and legacies, by public collections in churches† and at the commencements, and by the proceeds of lotteries.‡ From these various sources, in the

\* I observed in the minutes of the board, an acknowledgment of the receipt of one hundred pounds from "a company of comedians," being the profits of a play which they had represented for the benefit of the free school. The collection of so considerable a sum, on such an occasion, is a singular evidence either of the charity, or of the play-going propensities of those times. It seems that this mode of increasing their revenue did not meet with the unanimous approbation of the trustees, for it is stated in the minutes that a *majority* were in favour of receiving the donation.

† The sermons of Whitfield were most productive. One which he preached at the request of the trustees, for the benefit of the charity schools, and for which they returned him their "sincere and hearty thanks," yielded more than one hundred pounds.

‡ Considerable opposition was made to this mode of raising money; and, at one time, a law was passed prohibiting lotteries altogether: but it was

course of twelve years from the first establishment of the academy, the amount derived was not less than seven thousand pounds sterling; and if to this be added the profits of tuition, and benefactions from the proprietors in money and land, to the value of at least three thousand pounds, received during the same period, there will appear to have been no deficiency of funds for carrying the designs of the founders of the seminary into full effect. Of the donations from the proprietors, five hundred pounds accompanied their grant of the first charter, and nearly three thousand acres of land, situated in Bucks county, being the fourth part of the manor of Perkassie, were conveyed to the trustees by Thos. Penn, on the condition that, if the institution should fail of success, the land should revert to himself or his heirs. The fee simple of this land was, at a subsequent period, vested in the trustees, and the farms into which it was divided were sold upon mortgage; but as the conditions of the sale were not complied with, the greater number of them have reverted to the institution, and now constitute a part of the real estate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Though the resources of the college were amply sufficient to meet all the immediate demands upon them, and, at the end of twelve years, a considerable surplus remained in the hands of the trustees, beside the clear possession of the college ground and buildings, yet, as the interest accruing from this surplus, even with the addition of the receipts for tuition, would by no means be adequate to the proper support of the school, which would, therefore, still be left dependent upon the precarious supplies of private contributions and lotteries, it was thought advisable to look about for some means of pro-

soon afterwards repealed. Six or seven lotteries were at various times set on foot for the benefit of the institution; from two of which, upwards of four thousand pounds, currency, were collected.



curing such a sum of money, as, when united to that already possessed, and constituted into a permanent fund, might yield a fixed and certain income, adequate to all the wants of the institution. Too much had already been contributed by the citizens to justify an expectation that this object would be accomplished by a further appeal to their public spirit; and the legislature of the province wanted either the ability or inclination to yield any assistance. The attention of the trustees was, therefore, directed abroad; and as Dr. Smith, on his return from Europe, had reported that many of the best and most influential personages in England were favourably disposed to the institution, it was determined to seek, from the liberality of the mother country, those supplies which were not to be obtained in the colonies. The numerous and highly respectable acquaintance which the provost had formed, and the esteem in which he was held in Great Britain, naturally designated him as the most suitable person to act as the representative of the trustees on this occasion; and they accordingly requested him to undertake, in that capacity, another voyage across the Atlantic, promising the payment of all his expenses, and the continuance, during his absence, of the salary attached to the provostship. Dr. Smith cheerfully complied with the request; and, being furnished with the proper written power, sailed for England, where he arrived early in the year 1762. Persons of very high station and authority became interested in the success of his mission; and it was recommended, in order that the application from the trustees might come with greater weight, and the charity be rendered more universal, that a royal brief should be obtained, authorizing a collection to be made throughout the kingdom. Some embarrassment, however, was at first experienced in consequence of a similar application from the college of N. York, which, it was feared, if urged in opposition to that from Philadelphia, would mate-



rially interfere with its success, and, by the disgust which such rivalry is apt to excite, would operate greatly to the disadvantage of both schools. To remedy this inconvenience, Dr. Smith was induced, by the advice of his friends, to unite with Dr. Jay, the agent from New York, in a joint application, agreeing to share with him equally all the advantages which might result. An event very favourable to their purpose was at this juncture offered in the birth of a prince; and to his present majesty, George the Fourth, is perhaps, in some measure, owing the favour which their project experienced from his royal father. On so joyful an occasion, the king and his council could not refuse their countenance to a work of benevolence; and not only was a brief, as ample in the powers it conferred as they could desire, procured, but his majesty was pleased to give them also the influence of his example by himself becoming a contributor. The agents were not backward in availing themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them; and their success was even superior to their expectations. Dividing the country between them, they travelled throughout England; visited many parts of Scotland and Ireland; and where they could not themselves be present, employed the services of friends, and endeavoured to make a favourable impression by the distribution of circular letters, setting forth the nature of the charity, and strongly urging its claims upon the favour of the benevolent. Dr. Smith was especially remarked for his indefatigable exertion and skilful management. So highly, indeed, were his services appreciated by the trustees, that they not only took every opportunity of conveying to him the strongest expression of their approbation and confidence, but, on his return, received him, at a meeting of the board called for that special purpose, with the highest marks of satisfaction and respect, and unanimously voted him their thanks for the "great zeal, diligence, ability, and address which he had

shown in the management of this collection." At a subsequent meeting, they gave him a still stronger testimony of their consideration in the grant of one hundred pounds a-year, which was to be considered, "not as an addition to the salary of provost, but solely as a reward for his personal services in England." The individuals in Great Britain who most interested themselves in this affair of the two colleges, and whose influence, both in obtaining the brief, and afterwards in promoting the collection, was of most importance, were the archbishop of Canterbury, primate of the English church; the Rev. Dr. Chandler, who was considered at the head of the dissenting interest; and Thomas and Richard Penn, the proprietors of the province, who themselves contributed five hundred pounds. To these gentlemen letters had been originally written by the trustees, requesting their aid; and their exertions, particularly those of the archbishop and of Dr. Chandler were the more praiseworthy, as it was expressly understood that the objects of the college were not to promote any sectarian interests, but that its doors were open indiscriminately to individuals of every religious persuasion, whether in the capacity of officers, or of students. The collection was completed by the end of the year 1763, and the share of it which fell to the Philadelphia college amounted to more than six thousand pounds sterling. According to the original intention of the trustees, this sum was considered as a permanent fund, of which the interest only was to be applied to the purposes of the college; and the different portions of it, as they were received, were immediately invested in the best securities, generally in mortgages accompanied with a bond and judgment.

The finances of the college might now be considered in a good condition; as the income from its real estate and other investments, united with the money for tuition, and the casual receipts from various sources, were sufficient for its support.

No further efforts, therefore, were for some time made to augment its permanent fund; but as it was highly desirable that the institution should be wholly independent of precarious supplies, and some inconvenience was occasionally experienced from the emptiness of the treasury, the trustees, about ten years after their application to the British nation, resolved to set on foot another subscription in the colonies. Their first attempt was made in South Carolina, where the college was well known, and many wealthy individuals were supposed to be willing to contribute liberally towards its maintenance. Nor were their expectations disappointed. During a short visit which Dr. Smith was induced, at the request of the board, to make to Charleston, in the winter of 1771-2, he succeeded, without much difficulty, in procuring a large subscription, from which upwards of one thousand pounds sterling were ultimately realized. In the following spring, a proposition was made to institute a collection in the West Indies; and Dr. Morgan, one of the medical professors, having expressed a willingness to undertake the business, received from the board the necessary authority, and soon afterwards sailed for Jamaica. In this island alone, to which, on account of great losses sustained by a severe hurricane in other parts of the English West Indies, he was directed to confine his exertions, the subscriptions amounted to six thousand pounds, of the Jamaica currency. How much of this was actually collected, I have not been able to ascertain. A large portion of it was probably lost, in consequence of the confusion in which the affairs of the colonies were subsequently involved. It appears, however, from the minutes, that when Dr. Morgan gave in his accounts, towards the end of the year 1773, an amount equal to at least two thousand pounds sterling had been received, and the profits of his voyage, at the lowest calculation, may be stated at this sum. Beside the contributions from Carolina, and the West Indies,



a very considerable sum was subscribed in Philadelphia and the neighbourhood; so that there was every reason to expect, that the permanent income of the college would, for the future, be amply sufficient to defray all its necessary expenses.

But the troubles of the revolutionary war, which now broke out, very materially impaired its resources. One of the first effects of this contest upon the institution was a diminution in the number of students, and a consequent falling off, to an equal extent, of the receipts for tuition. In the spring of 1779, there were only about twenty members of the college classes, and eighty boys belonging to the grammar school and academy; and, at a previous period of the revolution, the numbers had been still less. The income of the college was also greatly diminished by the compelled receipt of depreciated paper in payment of rent and interest; and much loss of capital was experienced, in consequence of the discharge, in the same paper, of the bonds and mortgages in which a great portion of the funds was invested. At the same time that the resources were thus impaired, an enormous advance in the price of almost every necessary, rendered an augmentation of the salaries of the teachers indispensable, and thus very greatly increased the expenses. To such an extent was this the case, that at the opening of the schools, after a temporary suspension arising from the occupation of Philadelphia by the British army, it was found absolutely necessary to double all the salaries, in order that the professors might obtain a livelihood.

To compensate, in some measure, for this reduction of receipts and increase of expenditure, it was resolved, soon after the resumption of the duties of the college, in the fall of 1778, to make one more application to the citizens for aid. From a report made to the legislature, in the succeeding year, relative to the state of the schools, it appears, that this application resulted in the subscription of



twelve hundred pounds, currency, to be paid annually for three years. From the same report it also appears, that the property of the college, at that time, consisted, 1. of the lots and buildings in Fourth Street, including the academy, the boarding-house to the north of it, and four dwelling-houses in the immediate vicinity;—2. of a farm and mills at Norristown, containing five hundred and seventy-two acres, purchased with the money received in discharge of bonds and mortgages formerly held by the trustees;—3. of the Perkasio lands in Bucks county, presented by Thomas Penn, and containing nearly three thousand acres;—and 4. of moneys placed out at interest, amounting to somewhat more than five thousand pounds. The whole income from this estate, independently of the college building, and of two dwelling-houses occupied by professors, amounted only to six hundred and seventy pounds, together with five hundred bushels of wheat, or its value in currency, the latter item being the rent of the mills and farm at Norristown. The entire inadequacy of this income to the demands made upon it, will be rendered obvious by the simple statement, that the salary of the provost alone, over and above the rent of the house in which he lived, was, at the period of the report, not less than seven hundred pounds, and was soon afterwards increased to fourteen hundred pounds, which, in consequence of the depreciation of the currency, and the rise in the price of necessaries, was considered no more than equal to one quarter of that sum before the revolution. It will be perceived, hereafter, that the poverty of the college was made a pretext by the legislature for interfering in its concerns, and was one of the ostensible causes of a complete revolution in its affairs.

Before speaking of those proceedings of the legislature which led to this result, and which constitute a new era in the history of the institution, it will not be deemed irrele-

vant to give a brief statement of the salaries of the officers, and the cost of tuition at different periods, from its origin to this time. Such statements are interesting; as they enter into our means of estimating the character of particular periods of history, and in some measure enable us, by comparing the past with the present, to judge of the progress or decline of society.

When the academy first went into operation, the rector received a salary of one hundred and fifty pounds, Pennsylvania currency, which on the appointment of Dr. Allison was augmented to two hundred pounds; and the salary of Dr. Smith, when chosen provost of the college, was fixed at the same sum. The other professors received from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty pounds each, and the ushers, from sixty to seventy pounds. It would appear that these sums, small as they would now be considered, were in those economical times sufficient for the decent support of the teachers: for they remained without increase for several years; and there were few instances of resignation of office, on the ground of inadequate compensation. By the year 1761, however, an advance seems to have taken place in the cost of living, which rendered an augmentation of the salaries necessary. That of the provost was accordingly raised to two hundred and fifty pounds, and the others in nearly the same proportion. It has already been stated, that Dr. Smith, after completing the collection in Great Britain, received from the trustees, as a reward for his services, the gratuity of one hundred pounds annually, independent of his salary; so that his income from the college now amounted to three hundred and fifty pounds. In a letter, however, written to the board, in the year 1774, he states, that, on account of "the advanced price of necessaries, and the growing expense of a growing family," he finds it impossible, with all decent attention to frugality, to make this sum answer for his support; and,

in a modest way, reminding the trustees of his services to the institution, he requests them to provide him with a house, and promises, whatever may happen in the future, to make no farther demand upon them. His request was unanimously complied with; and a spacious mansion was erected on the college grounds, in which he continued to reside till the college itself passed into other hands.\* The example of the provost was soon followed by the other professors; and most of them obtained the right of a dwelling in addition to their salary. The effect of the depreciation of the currency, and of the increased expense of living, during the revolutionary war, upon the nominal amount of the salaries, has been already noticed.

The cost of tuition for the students of the college was originally four pounds a-year, with the addition of six shillings for fire-wood, and an entrance fee of twenty shillings. The expense of graduation was four pounds. In the year 1757, an attempt was made to raise the price of tuition to ten pounds per annum; but as other colleges continued to retain the lower rate, the attempt proved unsuccessful, and the old price was resumed. The charge for boarding, in the college buildings, was twenty-five pounds fifteen shillings a-year; so that, for the very moderate annual sum of about thirty pounds or eighty dollars, a young man might, at that period, receive his support in the first city, and his education in one of the highest seminaries of English America. During the revolution it was found necessary, from the same causes which induced an increase in the salaries of the professors, to raise the price of tuition first to twelve, and afterwards to twenty pounds a-year.

\* The house erected for Dr. Smith, was that large building which still stands at the south-west corner of Fourth and Mulberry Streets. All the ground and dwelling-houses, situated between this and the academy, were the property of the college.



## CHAPTER VI.

ABROGATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE COLLEGE BY THE  
PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

I HAVE before alluded to the suspension of the duties of the college, in consequence of the occupation of Philadelphia by the British army, and to their resumption immediately after the city was evacuated. The schools were closed in the month of June, 1777, and were again opened in September of the following year. The institution, however, had been but a short time in renewed operation, when it experienced, in the disposition of the prevailing political party and of their representatives in the legislature, an hostility much more injurious to its interests than the presence of the enemy. The causes of this hostility it is difficult, at the present time, exactly to understand. The provost, who, from his long and very important services, and the success with which his exertions had been attended, was, in the public estimation, almost identified with the school itself, had, by his attachment to the proprietors, in their former disputes with the legislature, rendered himself highly unpopular with a numerous party before the war; and his foreign birth, his clerical office in the English church, the honours he had received from the loyal university of Oxford, and the favour in which he stood with men of high station in Great Britain, were circumstances which, as they might naturally give his partialities a direction towards the mother country, tended



no doubt, at the commencement of the revolution, to increase the enmity of those who were attached to the cause of independence. Among the trustees of the college, also, were many who were known to be unfavourable to the new order of things, some of whom indeed had left the country and openly joined the enemy. When to these considerations we add the fact, that the institution had been fostered by English liberality, had been largely endowed by the proprietors, and had even enjoyed the smiles of the king, while from the legislature of the colony it had experienced only neglect, we can feel no surprise that it should have been suspected of a strong attachment to the royal interest, and therefore regarded by many with feelings of unkindness and distrust.

But whatever may have been the inclinations of those in whom the direction of its affairs resided, no public act had been committed which could afford ground for offence. On the contrary, care was taken to cultivate the good will of the new authorities; and at the commencement which succeeded the first assemblage of the continental congress in Philadelphia, the delegates, by the invitation of the trustees, proceeded in a body from the State House to the college, and thus gave it a strong testimony of their approval.

To guard still further against the effects of that political excitement which, there was reason to fear, might be directed fatally against the institution, it had been provided by those interested in its favour, that the sanction of positive law should be brought in aid of its other claims to the respect at least, if not to the support of the citizens. In the summer of 1776, while the convention of Pennsylvania was engaged in framing a constitution for the government of the commonwealth, Dr. Smith, having assembled at his house a few gentlemen connected with corporate bodies, proposed that they should endeavour to procure the insertion in the constitution

of an article, securing the inviolability of chartered rights. Such an article, drawn up by Dr. Smith, was approved by the meeting; and Dr. Franklin, who was present, undertook to procure its adoption by the convention, over which body he presided, and in the councils of which he was known to possess considerable influence. Hence originated that clause of the constitution of 1776, which secured to all societies "incorporated for the advancement of religion and learning, or for other pious or charitable purposes," the enjoyment of those rights and privileges of which they were possessed under the former laws of the commonwealth. But, to use the language of the venerable Bishop White, who was one of the gentlemen assembled at Dr. Smith's, and from whom the above account was derived, "the event showed of what little effect are provisions put on paper, when they interfere with the views of a dominant party in politics."

The first symptom of any disposition in the public authorities to interfere in the concerns of the college, was exhibited in a vote of the general assembly, in the month of February, 1779, directing an inquiry into the rise, design, and condition of the institution, and appointing a committee for this purpose, with the customary powers to send for persons and papers. In answer to questions proposed by this committee, a long paper was, at the desire of the board, drawn up by Dr. Smith, which was inserted in the minutes, and contains an ample account of the origin of the school, the motives and principles of its establishment, the success which had attended its efforts, and the state of its affairs at the time of the investigation. From this paper many of the details of the present history have been derived; and it will be readily judged, by those who may have perused the preceding statements, that nothing but a predetermined resolution to admit of no justification would have resisted the plain evidence of the facts which it advanced in favour of the college. Nor is it impossible that some impression may have been

produced by it upon the minds of the members of assembly; for either on this account, or from the press of more important business, an adjournment of the legislature took place, without any decision on the subject. But the fate of the institution was only postponed for a few months. At the opening of the next session, in the month of September, its affairs were again brought before the legislature in the message of Mr. Reed, president of the executive council. The obligation of the oath of allegiance to the king of Great Britain exacted by the charter; an indisposition on the part of the trustees to seek the aid of the new government for an establishment consistent with the principles of the revolution; and a general inattention, in the management of the school, to the interests of this government, were alleged in the message as reasonable grounds for legislative interference; and the lawfulness of such interference was maintained upon the principle, that, in the revolution of states, it becomes not only allowable, but necessary, so to modify pre-existing corporations, whether civil, literary, or religious, as to bring them into harmony with the new political arrangements.

Unfortunately for the college, Dr. Franklin, who was one of its most influential trustees, was now absent in Europe; and the activity of its enemies, which might have been restrained by his presence and authority, was allowed full scope to display itself. The assembly seems not to have required the instigation of the president to sharpen its animosity, or to invigorate its proceedings; for with a precipitation unusual in a matter so important and so little requiring haste, a law was enacted, abrogating in fact the former charters granted by the proprietors, and removing from their offices in the institution, the trustees, provost, vice-provost, professors, and all others attached to it by any tie of authority or dependence. It is true that a preparatory committee was appointed; and, when the charges were brought before the



house, the trustees were allowed to appear by council in their defence: but the committee seems to have been chosen rather to search for matter of accusation than to investigate the truth; and it was but a show of justice to hear the representations of the accused, when the resolution was already firmly taken to disregard them.

The charges brought forward by the committee in their report, from which two out of their number were sufficiently conscientious to express their dissent, were chiefly the following:—that an oath of allegiance to the British government was, by the charter, a necessary prerequisite to any official act; that several of the trustees, having joined the British army, stood attainted as traitors, and others had not, by taking the test, qualified themselves legally to fulfil the duties of their office; that the corporation had shown in its conduct an evident hostility to the government and constitution of the state; that its funds were utterly inadequate to the proper support of a seminary of learning; and, finally, that the original and fundamental principle of the college, by which it was bound to afford perfect equality of privileges to all religious denominations, had not been fully maintained.

The frivolity of these charges will be rendered evident by the slightest examination. The oath of allegiance demanded by the charter was abrogated by the revolution, with all other oaths which connected the provinces with the mother country. The political conduct and opinions of individual members of the board could operate only to their own disfranchisement, not to the injury of those who remained, nor to the destruction of the corporate rights of the whole body. The alleged hostility of the corporation to the government and constitution of the state was a matter altogether of feeling, and could not be proved by any public or private act of the body accused. A careful examination of the minutes of the board will on the contrary evince, that care was taken to

avoid all political interference; and submission to the laws enacted by the new government should have been accepted as a sufficient evidence of allegiance, without an invidious and inquisitorial examination into private feeling and opinion. The inadequacy of the funds to the proper support of the school, though an excellent reason for legislative assistance, certainly afforded no excuse for taking away the little of which it was already in possession. The last accusation, that of religious partiality, was the most serious; as it involved a violation of the fundamental laws of the institution, an evident departure from the intention of the founders, and an infringement of those conditions upon which the contributions of the benevolent had at different periods been so largely obtained. Accordingly, this was the only charge which the legislature thought proper to countenance by adoption into the preamble of their act; and upon this, together with their general right of controlling the operation of seminaries of learning, derived from their beneficial or injurious influence, according as they are well or ill conducted, over the peace and welfare of society, they grounded their proceedings in the present case.

The following are the first two sections of the act:—

“ *Whereas* the education of youth has ever been found to be of the most essential consequence, as well to the good government of states, and the peace and welfare of society, as to the profit and ornament of individuals, insomuch that from the experience of all ages, it appears that seminaries of learning, when properly conducted, have been public blessings to mankind, and that on the contrary, when in the hands of dangerous and disaffected men, they have troubled the peace of society, shaken the government, and often caused tumult, sedition, and bloodshed: *And whereas* the college, academy, and charitable school of the city of Philadelphia, were at first founded on a plan of free and unlimited catholicism; but

it appears that the trustees thereof, by a vote or by-law of their board, bearing date the *14th day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four*, have departed from the plan of the original founders, and narrowed the foundation of the said institution. *Be it therefore enacted, &c."*

Now from an examination of the minutes of the board of trustees on the day referred to, so far from discovering any vote or resolve which, by the severest construction, would give the least countenance to this charge of "narrowing the foundation" of the college, we find abundant evidence of a determination on the part of the board to "adhere strictly to the faith pledged to all religious denominations."

Dr. Smith, on his return from England, after having completed the great collection in that country, brought with him a letter to the board, signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, by the proprietors of Pennsylvania, and by Dr. Chandler, the object of which was to represent to the trustees the propriety of adopting "a fundamental rule or declaration," binding themselves to preserve inviolate the original broad and liberal plan of the seminary, and thus preventing those unpleasant jealousies and contentions, which could not but spring from a suspicion of undue partiality to any one religious sect.\* The sentiments of the letter were approved by

\* The following is the letter alluded to:—

To the trustees of the college, &c. of Philadelphia.

Gentlemen,—We cannot omit the opportunity which Dr. Smith's return to Philadelphia gives us of congratulating you on the great success of the collection which he came to pursue, and of acknowledging your obliging addresses of thanks to us for the share we had in recommending and encouraging this design. Such a mark of your attention to us will, we doubt not, excuse our hinting to you what we think may be further necessary to a due improvement of this collection, and the future prosperity of the institution under your care.

This institution you have professed to have been originally founded and



the board, and a declaration of the nature desired having been drawn up and inserted in the minute book, was signed not only by all those who at that time filled the office of trustee, but afterwards, in compliance with a clause of the declaration itself, by every new trustee after his election, and before he could be admitted to a seat at the board.\* In their answer to the archbishop, copied into the minutes of *June 14th, 1764*, the trustees, after expressing their thanks for

hitherto carried on for the general benefit of a mixed body of people. In his majesty's royal brief, it is represented as a seminary that would be of great use "for raising up able instructors and teachers, as well for the service of the society for propagating the gospel in foreign parts, as for other protestant denominations in the colonies."

At the time of granting this collection, which was solicited by the provost, who is a clergyman of the church of England, it was known that there were united with him a vice-provost who is a Presbyterian, and a principal professor of the Baptist persuasion, with sundry inferior professors and tutors, all carrying on the education of youth with great harmony: and people of various denominations have hereupon contributed liberally and freely.

But jealousies now arising lest this foundation should afterwards be narrowed, and some party endeavour to exclude the rest, or put them on a worse footing than they have been from the beginning, or were at the time of this collection, which might not only be deemed unjust in itself, but might likewise be productive of contentions unfriendly to learning and hurtful to religion; we would therefore recommend it to you, to make some fundamental rule or declaration to prevent inconveniences of this kind; in doing of which, the more closely you keep in view the plan on which the seminary was at the time of obtaining the royal brief, and on which it has been carried on from the beginning, so much the less cause we think you will give for any party to be dissatisfied.

Wishing continual prosperity and peace to the institution, we are, with great regard, &c. &c.

THOMAS, CANT.

THOMAS and RICHARD PENN.

SAMUEL CHANDLER.

LONDON, April 9th, 1764.

\* This document is interesting, both as it disproves the charge of religious partiality, and as it presents, in the signatures affixed to it, a complete list of the trustees at the time of its insertion in the minutes, and of those who afterwards became trustees, with the date of their election, down to the pe-

his attention to the prosperity of their school, and announcing their compliance with his advice, take occasion to observe, that they should always evince towards the national church every mark of regard consistent with their faith pledged to other religious denominations, and with that plan of Christian liberty upon which the institution was founded. A similar sentiment is expressed in their letters to Dr. Chandler and the proprietors, also copied into the minutes of June 14th; and in no other part of the minutes of that date, except in the joint letter and document above alluded to, is any reference whatever made to difference of religious persuasion. Upon the passages here referred to, the legislature must have rested their accusation; and a more striking instance could hardly be offered of that blindness and perversion of judgment to which the best men are liable, when under the influence of violent political excitement.

riod when the college was finally incorporated with the University. It is as follows:—

“The trustees being ever desirous to promote the peace and prosperity of this seminary, and to give satisfaction to all its worthy benefactors, have taken the above letter into their serious consideration, and perfectly approving the sentiments therein contained, do order the same to be inserted in their books, that it may remain perpetually declaratory of the present wide and excellent plan of this institution, which hath not only met with the approbation of the great and worthy personages above mentioned, but even the royal sanction of his majesty himself. They further declare that they will keep this plan closely in their view, and use their utmost endeavours that the same be not narrowed, nor the members of the church of England, or those dissenting from them (in any future election to the principal offices mentioned in the aforesaid letter) be put on any worse footing in this seminary than they were at the time of obtaining the royal brief. They subscribe this with their names, and ordain that the same be read and subscribed by every new trustee that shall hereafter be elected, before he takes his seat at the board.”

RICHARD PETERS, President, &c.

It should be observed that the joint letter referred to, and this document, are both inserted in the minutes of June 14th, 1764, the date alluded to in the preamble of the law.

But even admitting that the legislature might have had cause of dissatisfaction in the management of the seminary; admitting also that, during the struggles of a great revolution, the government has a right to modify pre-existing chartered institutions, so as to bring them into perfect harmony with the new order of affairs; yet, in the present case, the right to such interference was expressly denied by the very instrument by which the government itself was created, and continued to hold its existence. The constitution of 1776 was then the supreme law of the land; and in this constitution a clause had been inserted with the express purpose of affording protection to the college, and other literary and religious corporations in the state. The tribunals of justice were open to the government as well as to individuals, and for any illegal proceedings the trustees might have been prosecuted in the regular way, with a certainty of conviction. The mode adopted by the legislature evinced their sense of the weakness of their cause; and their decision, so far as we have the means at present of forming a judgment, was accordant rather with the spirit of despotism, than with that justice and moderation which should characterize the representatives of a free people.



## CHAPTER VII.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THE enmity which had thus triumphed over the authorities of the college, was not extended to the objects for which it had been established. On the contrary, having transferred the rights and property vested in the former trustees into more friendly hands, the legislature took the institution into favour, endowed it with lands out of the confiscated estates to the annual value of fifteen hundred pounds, and by the right of adoption, conferred upon it the new and more lofty title of University of Pennsylvania. The board appointed by the act of assembly consisted of three distinct sets of individuals. The first was composed of certain members of the government who possessed a seat at the board in virtue of their several offices; the second, of the "senior ministers in standing" of the six principal sects in Philadelphia; and the third, of individuals selected for their attachment to the revolution, which, in most of them, was evinced by the possession of high public stations in the commonwealth.\* By

\* The following is a list of the members of the board:—

Of the first division—those, namely, who held their places by virtue of their offices under the commonwealth, were

1. The president of the supreme executive council—Joseph Reed;
2. The vice-president of the council—William Moore;
3. The speaker of the general assembly—John Bayard;
4. The chief justice of the supreme court—Thomas M'Kean;
5. The judge of the admiralty—Francis Hopkinson;

these appointments, it will be perceived that the legislature fully provided for the political fidelity of the University, and its perfect impartiality towards all religious denominations; and these ends were still more firmly secured by the reservation of the right, within six months after the choice of any new trustee, to disapprove and annul the election. Whether the real interest of the institution was consulted by placing it in the hands of men, whose public engagements might be supposed sufficient to occupy their whole attention, was a question which could not be readily answered, and was perhaps considered of secondary importance.

The new trustees met for the first time in December 1779, and having taken the oath or affirmation at that time prescribed by law, organized themselves into a board, and appointed his excellency, Joseph Reed, their president. However dissatisfied with the late decision, the former authorities of the college did not venture to resist the will of the government, and quietly resigned their property to their ap-

6. The attorney general—Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant.

The second division consisted of

1. The senior minister of the Episcopal churches—Rev. Wm. White;
2. The senior minister of the Presbyterian churches—Rev. John Ewing;
3. The senior minister of the Lutheran churches—Rev. John Christopher

Kunze;

4. The senior minister of the German Calvinist churches—Rev. Casparus Weiberg;

5. The senior minister of the Baptist churches ———;

6. The senior minister of the Roman churches—Rev. Ferdinand Farmer.

The gentlemen composing the third division were Dr. Franklin, then minister at Paris; William Shippen, Frederick Muhlenberg, and James Searle, delegates from Pennsylvania in the congress of the United States; William Augustus Atlee, and John Evans, judges of the supreme court; Timothy Matlack, secretary of the supreme executive council; David Rittenhouse, treasurer of the state; Jonathan Bayard Smith; Samuel Morris; George Bryan; Dr. Thomas Bond; and Dr. James Hutchinson.

pointed successors. Steps were immediately taken to arrange the affairs of the school, and to select suitable individuals to fill the vacant offices. The Rev. Dr. John Ewing, a trustee by right of his station in the Presbyterian church, was chosen provost. David Rittenhouse, the distinguished astronomer, also a trustee, was made a professor, with the title of vice-provost. The professorship of the languages was conferred upon the Rev. Robert Davidson, and that of mathematics upon James Cannon, who had been previously employed in the college. James Davidson, who had succeeded Mr. Beveridge as teacher of the Latin and Greek languages, and had been connected with the late institution for more than ten years, was appointed rector of the academy, with an authority independent of the collegiate faculty. A German school was added to the other branches of the seminary; and the Rev. Mr. Kunze gave up his office as one of the trustees, in order to accept the direction of this department. In the course, however, of a very few years, many changes were made. Mr. Rittenhouse, resigning the vice-provostship, was succeeded by the Rev. Samuel Magaw;\* James Davidson was made professor of the languages in the place of the Rev. Robert Davidson, who left the institution; and Robert Patterson, who had before been employed in a subordinate station, was appointed, as the successor of Mr. Cannon, to the chair of mathematics.

Much difficulty was experienced in organizing a medical faculty. For more than three years there was a constant succession of appointments and resignations; and it was not till the autumn of 1783 that the affair was ultimately settled by the reinstatement of the former professors in the respective stations which they had held in the college.

Among the incidents in the history of the university, it

\* The same Samuel Magaw, I suspect, who was mentioned in the list of the first graduates of the college.



would be improper to pass over, without notice, an evidence of the kindness with which this country and its institutions were regarded by the government of France. In July, 1784, a letter was received by the board of trustees from the Marquis de Chattaleau, requesting their acceptance of a collection of valuable books as a present from his most Christian Majesty, made at the instance of the Count de Vergennes and himself. It is unnecessary to say that this mark of royal favour was received with due respect, and answered with a profession of their grateful sense of the honour conferred upon them. Even republicans are wont to attach a fictitious value to the favours of monarchs; and, in the present case, the munificence of the gift is still further enhanced by the associations which our memory forms of its royal author with the independence of our country and his own unmerited misfortunes.

The success of the university was by no means adequate to the expectations, which the patronage of the legislature and its own advantages of situation were calculated to excite. It is true that the inferior schools were generally well attended; but the college classes were small, and the graduates few; and at no period could it boast of a prosperity equal to that which the college had at one time enjoyed. This deficiency of support was undoubtedly in part attributable to the political condition of the country, and to the competition of new seminaries; but other causes quite as influential were to be found in circumstances especially belonging to the university itself. The trustees, chosen principally in consequence of their public stations, not from any peculiar fitness for the office, or attachment to its duties, could not be expected to manifest that minute attention and vigilant care which had characterized their predecessors, whose long connexion with the college had almost identified its interests with their own. The consequences of this want of vigilance

in the board were evident, as well in the uncertain and fluctuating measures which were adopted, as in the condition of the financial concerns, which even the liberal grant of the legislature did not preserve from embarrassment. With the teachers, the unsettled state of their accounts was a frequent source of complaint; and the numerous changes which took place among them, owing probably to this as much as to any other cause, were calculated very materially to injure the reputation of the school. Besides the want of proper energy in the management of the university, another impediment to its prosperity existed in the unfriendly feelings with which it was regarded by many respectable citizens. Attached to the old school and its officers, and considering the new as having been founded in usurpation, they were disposed both from inclination and principle to prefer some distant seminary for the education of their children; thus not only withdrawing their immediate support from the university, but arraying against it the influence of their example with their fellow-citizens, and the force of new attachments among those who were hereafter to become active members of society. To this period we may perhaps trace the origin of those partialities which have directed away from our highest literary institution so much of the public patronage, and at this moment are operating to the disadvantage and dishonour of the city.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLLEGE.—SEPARATE EXISTENCE OF THE TWO SCHOOLS.—UNION OF THE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY.

IN the mean time the late authorities of the college were not quiescent under their wrongs. Dr. Smith, especially, was indefatigable in seeking redress for the institution and himself. In repeated memorials, drawn up with no little ability, he represented the injustice and unconstitutionality of the legislative proceedings in their case, and complained that, in his old age, dismissal from an office which he himself had rendered valuable should have been the only reward of his long and important services. Petitions, moreover, were presented to successive legislatures, by the displaced trustees; and the support of a numerous party was not wanting to enforce their claims of justice. The feelings of the venerable Franklin, who was now returned from Europe, were known to be in their favour; for, though by the law which established the university he was declared one of the trustees, and afterwards, as president of the executive council, had an additional right to the station, he had always declined qualifying himself for a seat at the board, by taking the requisite oaths. Though the public ear may for a time be deafened by the rage of party, it cannot always be closed to the voice of justice; and the current of opinion at length be-



gan to turn in favour of the old establishment. One effort, indeed, to restore the college charter by legislative enactment, proved abortive; but a bill subsequently introduced was more successful, and in the year 1789, a law was passed by a great majority, which reinstated the trustees and faculty in all their former estates and privileges. In the preamble of this law, the proceedings of the legislature by which these estates and privileges had been transferred to the trustees of the university, was stigmatized as “repugnant to justice, a violation of the constitution of this commonwealth, and dangerous in its precedent to all incorporated bodies;” so different are the views which will be taken of the same subject by men in the opposite states of calmness and excitement.

But the same sense of justice which led to the re-establishment of the college, forbade any farther interference in the affairs of the university than was necessary for the accomplishment of this purpose. The trustees of the latter institution, therefore, retained their corporate capacity; and, as the grant formerly made by the legislature out of the confiscated estates still remained to them, they were not left absolutely destitute of support. New buildings were provided for the accommodation of the schools; the faculties both in arts and in medicine continued their courses of instruction; and a yearly commencement was held as before, at which the various ordinary and honorary degrees were conferred. But the operations, which previously to this change, were not marked with vigour, now became still more languid; and after a feeble existence had been prolonged for the space of rather more than two years, it was found necessary, in order to avert total ruin, to propose a union with the rival seminary.

The trustees of the college had not been negligent in availing themselves of the act which had been passed in their favour. On the 9th of March, 1789, only three days after the

final passage of the law, they met at the house of Dr. Franklin, who was the oldest member of the board, and the only survivor of the original founders of the institution. The infirmities of the venerable patriot confined him chiefly if not altogether within doors, and at his request the meetings continued to be held at his dwelling till the middle of summer, when the increasing severity of his disorder rendered him totally unable to attend to public duties. Of the twenty-four trustees who constituted the board at the period of its dissolution, about ten years before this time, only fourteen remained; the rest having either died in the interval, or deserted the country during the revolution. Their first measures were to obtain possession of the college buildings, to organize the different departments of the seminary according to the former plan, to fill up vacancies in the various professorships, and to supply the deficiency in their own number by the election of new members.\* Of the professors in the department of the arts, Dr. Smith and James Davidson were the only survivors. The former, as a matter of course, took the place of provost; and the latter, who, as was previously mentioned, had been employed in the university, accepted

\* The following is a list of the trustees who were surviving at the re-establishment of the college:—

Benjamin Franklin, one of the		Samuel Powell, chosen	-	1773
founders, in the year	- 1749	Right Rev. William White,		1774
Benjamin Chew, chosen	- 1757	Robert Morris,		
Edward Shippen,	- - 1758	Francis Hopkinson,	} -	1777
Thomas Willing,	- - 1760	George Clymer,		
Dr. John Redman,	- - 1763	James Wilson,	} -	1778
John Lawrence,	- - 1765	Alexander Wilcocks,		
Thomas Mifflin,	- - 1773			

The vacancies were supplied by the choice of the following gentlemen: Thomas Fitzsimmons, Henry Hill, Robert Blackwell, Samuel Miles, William Bingham, William Lewis, John Nixon, Robert Hare, Dr. Caspar Wistar, and Richard Peters. Edward Burd and David H. Conyngham were afterwards chosen to supply vacancies which occurred in the board. Dr. Franklin was made president, and after his death, was succeeded by Bishop White.



the invitation of the trustees to resume his office of professor of languages in the college. The faculty was completed by the appointment of the Rev. Dr. John Andrews and the Rev. William Rogers; the former to assist the provost in instructing the philosophical classes, the latter, with the title of professor of English and oratory, to superintend the English and mathematical schools.

Of the medical professors, Dr. Morgan was absent from indisposition, and died before the arrangements were completed; and Dr. Kuhn remained connected with the university: so that Dr. William Shippen, professor of anatomy and surgery; and Dr. Rush, who succeeded Morgan in the chair of the practice, were at this time the only members of the faculty. The original number was completed by the appointment of Dr. Wistar to the chair of chemistry and the institutes of medicine, and Dr. Samuel Powell Griffiths to that of *materia medica* and pharmacy. An additional professorship was created—that of botany and natural history; and Dr. Barton was chosen as its occupant. This may be regarded as one of the most interesting eras in the history of the medical school. It was now that Dr. Rush took that station which his genius and eloquence afterwards rendered so illustrious; it was now that Barton found a field for the display of acquirements unrivalled among his contemporary countrymen; it was now, moreover, that Wistar entered within those walls, which the fame of his talents as a teacher crowded with pupils, and about which his warm benevolence of heart, and delightful urbanity of manner combined to throw a charm, which, amidst all subsequent changes, has retained a strong influence over the affections of those who had the good fortune to listen to his instructions.

Soon after the revival of the school, a department of law was added to those of the arts and of medicine. James Wilson, a member of the board, was chosen professor, and de-



livered one or more courses of lectures; but with what success, I have been unable to learn. Of the estimation in which his talents were held by the trustees, independently of the evidence afforded by his appointment, we may form some idea from the amount within which it was thought necessary to limit the fee for admission to his lectures. At the request of Mr. Wilson that the board should ascertain the compensation he should be allowed to demand from each pupil, it was resolved that the sum should not exceed ten guineas. At present, the first legal talent in the country would command but a slender attendance upon a course of lectures, were a fee of this magnitude required.

In little more than a month from the first meeting of the trustees, the various schools were again opened upon their former plan. But most of the obstacles which were opposed to the success of the university, were no less in the way of the college; and it soon became evident that the separate existence of the two seminaries was incompatible with the prosperity of either. Their funds, managed with the utmost attention to economy, were utterly insufficient for the maintenance of two distinct sets of teachers and professors; and legislative assistance could not be demanded with propriety, as neither school could urge an exclusive claim to public bounty, and to endow both, would be to bestow treasure for the attainment of an inadequate object: for it was evident that the demands of the population would be abundantly satisfied by a single seminary of the highest order, which might be conducted at half the expense of the present establishments, and with at least equal efficiency. The same consideration which precluded the expectation of aid from the legislature, discouraged the trustees from resorting to that plan of soliciting private contributions, which had proved so useful to the college on former occasions, when no rival existed to divide the public benevolence and patronage.

There seemed, therefore, no other means of averting the ruin, or at least of raising the character and extending the usefulness of the schools of Philadelphia than to effect a union of their interests and resources. Happily, feelings of hostility had not acquired such vigour as not to yield at length to considerations of public good. Overtures for a union, proceeding from the trustees of the university, were received with unanimous approbation by those of the college; and as both were earnestly desirous of seeing the object accomplished, little time was sacrificed in arranging the necessary preliminaries. A joint application was made to the legislature for such alterations in the respective charters as might give the sanction of law to the proposed measure. The requisite act was obtained without difficulty; and on the 30th of September, 1791, the two corporations were by law united into one.

The principal conditions of the union were, first, that the name of the institution should be *the University of Pennsylvania*; secondly, that twenty-four individuals, chosen equally by the two boards from their own numbers, should, with the governor of the state constitute the new board, of which the governor should be *ex officio* president; and thirdly, that the "professors who might be deemed necessary to constitute the faculty in arts and in medicine" should as far as possible be taken equally from each institution. It was moreover provided, that vacancies among the trustees, with the exception of the governor, should be filled by their own choice; and that no professor or officer of the faculty should be removed without due and timely notice, and by a less number than two-thirds of the members present at any one meeting, thirteen being necessary to constitute a quorum for such a purpose. In compliance with the provisions of the law, each board proceeded to the performance of its last official act by the choice of twelve individuals as its representa-



tives in the government of the newly constituted university. The gentlemen thus appointed, together with Thomas Mifflin, the governor of the state, met, for the first time, on the 18th of November, 1791; and, having regularly organized themselves, proceeded without delay to restore to order the disjointed affairs which had been committed to their charge.\*

One of their first measures was to unite the offices of secretary and treasurer in a single person, to whom they gave a compensation adequate to the trouble and responsibility of his station, exacting, at the same time, satisfactory security for the faithful discharge of the duties intrusted to him. As treasurer he was bound not only to receive and disburse money, and to perform such other services as are usually attached to this title; but also to exercise a general care and superintendence over the estates of the university, and, with the approbation of the trustees, to execute all those measures, of a financial character, which it had hitherto been the custom to refer to the management of committees. It was thought that the attention of one individual of respectable character and standing, whose peculiar interests, moreover, were made to correspond with the duties of his office, would be more profitable to the institution, in the management of its pecuniary affairs, than the gratuitous services of members of the board, whose public spirit could not be expected to withstand, on all occasions, the calls of private business, or to bear, without a relaxation of effort, the irksomeness and fa-

\* The gentlemen chosen by the trustees of the university were, Thomas McKean, Charles Pettit, James Sproat, Frederick Kuhl, John Bleakly, John Carson, Jonathan B. Smith, David Rittenhouse, Jonathan D. Sergeant, David Jackson, James Irvin, and Jared Ingersoll. Those selected by the trustees of the college were William White, D. D., Robert Blackwell, D. D., Edward Shippen, William Lewis, Robert Hare, Samuel Powell, David H. Conyngham, William Bingham, Thomas Fitzsimmons, George Clymer, Edward Burd, and Samuel Miles.



tigue which are incident to trusts of such a nature. Nor were the calculations of the board disappointed. The propriety of the measure has been demonstrated both by the neatness and accuracy of the records, and by the careful management of the finances, since the period of its adoption.\*

In the succeeding chapters I shall present a very general view of the organization of the university; and, without entering into minute particulars, shall trace the current of its affairs down to the present time.

\* Edward Fox was the first secretary and treasurer of the university; and continued to retain the office till the period of his death. He was succeeded by Joseph Reed, Esq., recorder of the city.

## CHAPTER IX.

ORGANIZATION OF THE UNIVERSITY, AFTER THE UNION OF  
THE SCHOOLS.

To effect a satisfactory arrangement of the internal affairs of the institution was found by the trustees to be a task of some difficulty. It was evidently impossible, with the limited funds under their control, and with a proper regard to the best interests of the school, so to expand its establishment, as to embrace, in its various offices, all the professors and teachers who had been connected with the late college and university; and yet, a sense of the justice due to these gentlemen, as well as private feelings of friendship or regard entertained towards them by individual members of the board, demanded that as many of them should be included in the new scheme as might in any way be consistent with the great object, for the attainment of which they were to be employed. Between these opposing considerations, to hit upon the just medium, required the exercise of cautious reflection, and a spirit of mutual condescension among the friends of those candidates whose conflicting claims were in the way of a proper settlement. At length, however, a plan for the seminary was prepared, which, though not without some opposition, was ultimately adopted.

It was determined that, beside the charity schools, there should be three departments; those of the arts, of law, and of



medicine. In the department of arts, five separate schools were instituted, to be placed under the care of six professors, assisted by as many tutors as might from time to time be deemed necessary. The first school was to consist of two philosophical classes, to be taught respectively by two professors; the one of natural philosophy, the other of moral philosophy. The four remaining schools were each to have a distinct professor; the grammar school, a professor of Latin and Greek; the mathematical school, a professor of mathematics; the English school, a professor of English and the belles-lettres; and the German school, a professor of the German and oriental languages. To fill the six professorships thus established, three individuals were to be chosen out of each of the former faculties, in compliance with that provision of the act of union, by which the trustees were bound to select the officers of the university equally from the two seminaries.

According to the regulations above detailed, the following gentlemen were appointed to the chairs respectively connected with their names;—Dr. Ewing to the chair of natural philosophy; Dr. Andrews to that of moral philosophy; Mr. Davidson to that of Greek and Latin; Mr. Patterson to that of the mathematics; Mr. Rogers to that of English and the belles-lettres; and finally, Dr. Henry Helmuth, the successor of Mr. Kunze in the late university, to that of the German and oriental languages.\* At a subsequent election Dr. Ewing was chosen provost, and Dr. Andrews vice-provost.

From the above statement, it appears, that only two of the late professors, Dr. Magaw of the university, and Dr. Smith of the college, were omitted in the new appoint-

\* The German school was maintained but for a short time, being either inadequately supported, or not found productive of those advantages which were originally proposed.



ments. The former of these gentlemen, understanding that by becoming a candidate he might interfere with the interests of his friend Dr. Andrews, generously declined a nomination; the latter, though supported by a large number of the trustees, had, however, a majority opposed to him, and was now finally separated from an institution, with the infancy of which he had become associated in early life, whose youth he had strengthened and adorned in the vigour of his age, and whose untimely decay, now in his declining years, was another link in the chain of sympathy by which it had so long been connected with his fortunes. The age and infirmities of the late provost were probably thought to unfit him for the superintendence of a great seminary, in which vigour of authority must be conjoined with extensive knowledge and talents for instructing; and an inferior station could hardly have been offered with propriety, or accepted without degradation. It is possible, however, that a little leaven of old political animosity may have lurked in the minds of those who opposed him, and mingling with the more obvious motives, have communicated to them a force and influence which they might not otherwise have possessed. Yet this feeling, if it existed at all, must have been feeble; for no asperity marked the official proceedings, and every disposition was displayed to do, in whatever regarded pecuniary matters, all that justice could require. The doctor was allowed to retain, for one year, free from rent, the house which he had occupied as provost of the college; his claims upon the institution to the amount of nine hundred pounds were admitted and adjusted; and an annuity of one hundred pounds, formerly granted in consideration of his services in England, was now secured to him for life. The intimate connexion of the affairs of the old college, in all its vicissitudes of good and bad fortune, with him who was its first and last provost, has necessarily brought be-

fore our view many events in the life of that prominent individual; and circumstances peculiar to himself—his learning, his talents, his public-spirited exertions, and the large space which he filled in the esteem and affection of a numerous and most respectable acquaintance—give these events a value in narration, which would, perhaps, have justified us in presenting them to the public in still more minute detail than we have deemed necessary merely for the illustration of this historical sketch. It may not be amiss to state, in taking a final leave of the venerable provost, that his life, already far advanced at the period of his separation from the institution, was protracted to the year 1803.

In the department of law, the regulations which originated with the late college, were still maintained, and Mr. Wilson was continued in his professorship. But the place seems to have been nominal; for no salary was attached to it, and sufficient encouragement was not afforded by students to compensate the trouble of a regular course of lectures. To the present time, instruction in law continues, on paper at least, to be a part of the scheme of the university. In the year 1817, attention was called to the subject by the annunciation of a course from Charles W. Hare, at that time professor; and a respectable attendance was commanded by the high and well merited reputation of that accomplished lawyer. I am not aware, however, that the effort was continued beyond one season; and it has not since been repeated.

It has before been stated that a complete history of the medical school does not constitute a part of our present design. I shall now, therefore, merely mention the names of the gentlemen who were chosen professors in this department. The new faculty was composed of William Shippen, professor of anatomy, surgery, and midwifery; Caspar Wistar, adjunct professor of the same branches; Adam Kuhn, professor of the practice of physic; Benjamin Rush, profes-

sor of the institutes and clinical medicine; James Hutchinson, professor of chemistry; Samuel Powell Griffiths, professor of materia medica; and Benjamin S. Barton, professor of natural history and botany. Of these gentlemen, the first six were chosen equally from the late college and university; the seventh, though nominally a member of the faculty, was not placed on the same footing with the others as, by a resolution of the board, an attendance upon his lectures was declared not to be an essential requisite for obtaining the medical honours.



## CHAPTER X.

## ACCOUNT OF THE PROFESSORS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

It will be most convenient, for the sake of avoiding confusion in the subsequent narrative of events, to pursue at once down to the present time the succession in the faculty of arts, without immediate reference to the particular situation of the seminary at the period of each new appointment. As the mere name of an individual is a blank to those unacquainted with his person, character, or history, a few condensed biographical notices will be necessary, in order that correct conceptions may be formed of the condition and merits of the institution of which the subjects of the proposed notices were the conductors.

The Rev. Dr. John Ewing, the first provost of the university, had risen by his own exertions from very humble beginnings. The son of a farmer of moderate circumstances in Maryland, and one of a numerous family, he had neither, when a boy, the advantages of a regular education, nor, in his manhood, the assistance of any influential relatives to push his fortunes in the world. Gifted, however, with a strong propensity to scientific pursuits, he improved the slender opportunities which were afforded him in his native place by industrious and eager application; and when old enough to enter upon an independent course of life, left his father's house, to seek elsewhere the means of instruction

and support. Both objects were secured by an engagement which he formed, in the double capacity of pupil and assistant, with Dr. Allison, who then taught a private school, with much reputation, in the province of Pennsylvania. Such was his diligence in his new station, and such the extent of his acquirements, that on application for admission to the college at Princeton, he was not only received in one of the higher classes, but was also employed as a tutor; and was thus enabled to continue his plan of improving himself, and of earning a livelihood by assisting in the improvement of others. Having obtained his degree, he devoted himself to the study of theology; and returning to Dr. Allison, now vice-provost of the college of Philadelphia, qualified himself, under his instruction, for admission into the ministry. His first connexion with the institution, over which he was ultimately called to preside, took place soon after this period. The absence of Dr. Smith in Great Britain, on the business of the college, having occasioned a temporary vacancy in the faculty, Mr. Ewing, though then only twenty-six years old, was thought qualified to supply his place in the charge of the philosophical classes. Shortly afterwards, he entered into the pastoral office as minister of the first Presbyterian congregation of Philadelphia, to which he continued attached during the remainder of his life. It was in consequence of this station that he became one of the trustees of the university, founded by the legislature upon the ruins of the college; and his elevation to the office of provost, while it was due to his attainments in learning and science, was undoubtedly facilitated by his known attachment to the principles of the revolution, and to the independence of his country. That he should have countenanced the injury done to his former friends, and even been willing to partake of their spoils, is only a proof that the best men, by the violence of party excitement, are apt to have their vision so perverted,

that an act of injustice, if it promote the great political object in view, assumes in their eyes the colour of necessity, if not of virtue. It has been seen, that on the union of the schools, his claims to the provostship were thought to overbalance the high qualifications and long services of Dr. Smith. He continued to preside over the university, and to perform the duties of professor of natural philosophy till 1802, when he died, at the age of seventy-one years. But for a short time before the close of his life, he was disabled by ill health from that steady and vigorous application to the business of his station which had characterized the early period of his employment, and by which alone he could compensate the university for that unfortunate division of his time and attention, which his adherence to the pastoral office rendered necessary. From the accounts which are left of Dr. Ewing, he appears to have been characterized rather by strong judgment and indefatigable application, than by great genius or brilliant imagination. As a mathematician he was thought not to have a superior in the Union. His classical attainments were highly respectable, and by a fondness for biblical researches, he was led to devote much time to the study of the Hebrew language. While the extent of his acquirements commanded the respect of all, the mildness and goodness of his character, and the excellence of his social qualities secured him the kindness and affection of his companions. On a visit which he paid to Great Britain, before his elevation to the provostship, he was received with the highest marks of favour in the literary circles of Edinburgh and London, where he acquired the friendship of several distinguished men, particularly of the celebrated historian Dr. Robertson, by whom he was remembered affectionately to the time of his death. It was on this visit that he received, without solicitation, the title of Doctor of Divinity, conferred upon him by the university of Edinburgh. The lectures on



natural philosophy which he delivered to the classes under his care, were printed after his death, and, though at present out of date, attracted considerable attention at the time of their publication.

The place left vacant by the death of Dr. Ewing, was not filled by a new appointment till the year 1806, when John M'Dowell, L. L. D., of Annapolis in Maryland, was induced to resign his station as principal of St. John's College, in order to accept the professorship of natural philosophy in the University of Pennsylvania, which was offered him by a unanimous vote of the board of trustees. In the commencement of the following year he was elected provost: but the state of his health was found to be incompatible with the duties he had undertaken to perform; and in little more than three years after entering the institution, he retired into the country, and left to the trustees the embarrassment of another choice. He afterwards evinced his attachment to the school, by supplying a temporary vacancy occasioned by the resignation of his successor; and still later, by the bequest of his books, which now form a valuable part of the library belonging to the institution.

At the period of Dr. M'Dowell's retirement, Dr. Andrews had been vice-provost for nearly twenty years; and his services both in the college and university, together with the respectability of his attainments and character, entitled him to what little addition of honour and emolument was to be derived from his elevation to the higher post. A native of Maryland, he was, at the age of seventeen, sent to receive his education in the college and academy at Philadelphia, where he graduated A. D. 1765, and was immediately employed as a tutor in the German school; thus beginning his career in the lowest station of that institution, in the highest office of which it was destined to close. Having qualified himself for the ministry, and received regular ordination in

the Episcopal church from the bishop of London, he entered into the service of the celebrated English "Society for propagating the Gospel in foreign parts;" and, in the capacity of a missionary, preached at different places in the interior of Pennsylvania and Maryland. The revolution found him settled with a congregation in the latter of these provinces; but as his political sentiments were not exactly accordant with those of the great majority of his parishioners, his situation soon became so uncomfortable as to induce him to remove to Yorktown, where he maintained himself for many years by the profits of a flourishing school. In 1785, he accepted an invitation to take charge of the Episcopal academy then just established in this city, which he continued to superintend till, upon the revival of the college and academy, he was induced to become a colleague of his former master, Dr. Smith, in the management of the philosophical school. I have already spoken of his long services in the university. In December 1810, he was unanimously elected provost; but his health now began to give way, and he was compelled to withdraw from the institution, after having enjoyed his elevation little more than two years. Though not described as a man of splendid abilities, Dr. Andrews was highly esteemed as a first rate classical scholar, and an excellent teacher. The works he has left behind him are the living records of his diligence and skill—they are the numerous men of note in the various walks of professional life, the foundation of whose reputation was laid in the instruction they received from him in their youth.

In reply to the letter in which Dr. Andrews, a few months before his death, announced his desire to resign his station in the university, the trustees expressed their high sense "of the unremitting industry and great ability with which he had successively filled the offices of provost and vice-provost;" and communicated their unanimous resolution that the salary



which he had hitherto received should be continued to him during the remainder of his life. The Rev. Frederick Beasley, the present learned and respected provost, was chosen to succeed him in July, 1813.

Having spoken of the successive principals of the university, it remains that I should briefly notice their several coadjutors. It will be remembered that Robert Patterson was one of those who were selected from the faculty of the late university, with which he had been connected from its origin, first in a subordinate capacity as a teacher in the mathematical school, and afterwards with the title and privileges of professor. Few teachers in this city have passed through a career at once so long, so uniformly correct, honourable, and prosperous, as that which prudence and fortune combined to mark out for this gentleman. Though an Irishman by birth, he came to this country before the revolution, and possessing therefore all the rights and feelings of a citizen, exhibited, throughout the course of his life, a warm attachment to our republican institutions, and a passionate interest in our national honour and greatness. Some previous experience in the art of teaching, and a skill in the mathematics which was the natural result of diligent application, great mental accuracy, and clearness of intellect, fitted him well for the chair, which, without the extraneous influence of friends and relatives, they enabled him to attain. To the professorship of mathematics, after the death of Dr. M'Dowell, he united that of natural philosophy; and in the year 1810 was made vice-provost, in the place of Dr. Andrews. Independently of his emoluments from the university, he for many years enjoyed a considerable salary as president of the mint. Thus comfortable in his circumstances, he was enabled, in the decline of life, to withdraw from the fatigues of his professorship, and to seek that repose which was now



essential to his tranquillity. Testimonies of the public esteem followed him into retirement. The degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by the institution which he had so long and diligently served; and in the presidency of the philosophical society, to which he was appointed on the death of Dr. Wistar, he received the highest literary honour in the gift of any association on this side of the Atlantic.

At the time of his resignation, a favourite son had been chosen to supply his place till a regular appointment should be made. He lived not only to witness the confirmation of this son in the professorship, but to experience, from his honourable exertions and well merited reputation, the purest gratification of which the parental heart is susceptible. To crown the felicity of his lot, he had united the Christian with the philosopher; and, at a good old age, went down to his grave, with the full assurance that he should rise again to a happier and more exalted existence. Dr. Robert M. Patterson, the present vice-provost and professor of natural philosophy, succeeded his father A. D. 1813.

Of the professors who belonged to the college before its overthrow in 1779, Mr. Davidson alone had retained his station through all the subsequent changes. In the superintendence of the academy of Newark in Delaware, he had exhibited such evidence of his familiarity with the learned languages, and of his abilities as a teacher, that on the death of Mr. Beveridge, he was thought qualified to supply the place of that accomplished scholar, and was invited towards the close of the year 1767, with offers too favourable to be resisted, to take charge of the Latin school. That his talents continued to be held in high estimation is evinced by the fact, that in each successive change of the institution, care was taken to secure his services. The same fact speaks favourably of the prudence and general moderation of his cha-

racter, by which he was enabled to steer through the embarrassments of a most agitated period, without either striking against the prejudices and passions which beset him on all sides, or suffering himself to be carried away by the violence of the currents which swept across his course. In the same tenour of usefulness and respectability his life ran evenly on, till at length the debility of old age overtook him, and rendered a retirement from active duties advisable on account of the university, and necessary for his own comfort. Upon the occasion of his resignation, the board of trustees, expressing the "high regard and respect" which they entertained for him, resolved that "in consideration of his long and faithful services," he should be allowed an annuity of two hundred and fifty pounds per annum, and the use of the house which he then occupied, during the remainder of his life. Mr. Davidson resigned in February, 1806; and in the month of May following, James G. Thompson, the present excellent professor of the Latin and Greek languages, was appointed in his place.

The Rev. William Rogers, professor of English and the belles-lettres, was a clergyman of the Baptist church. He had served during the revolution as chaplain in the army, and afterwards had the charge of a congregation in this city. His office in the university, though nominally on a footing with the other professorships, was in fact regarded as less essentially connected with the interests of the seminary, and therefore commanded less both of influence and emolument. Of so little importance indeed was it considered, that, in a change of regulations which took place in the year 1810, the trustees resolved that it was expedient to suppress it: but, at the same time, unwilling to wound the feelings of Dr. Rogers, they determined that it should remain in its former condition till after the death or resignation of that gentleman.

The latter of these contingencies was soon realized. Unwilling that the institution, from a regard to his convenience, should continue to suffer an unnecessary burden, he withdrew from it altogether, and left the board at liberty to make whatever arrangements they might deem most salutary. Dr. Rogers, after surviving all his former colleagues, died recently at an advanced age.



## CHAPTER XI.

REMOVAL OF THE SCHOOL.—NEW UNIVERSITY EDIFICE IN  
NINTH STREET.

HAVING given a brief account of the gentlemen who composed the faculty of arts, as it was constituted immediately after the union of the schools, and of their successors to the present time, we may now recur to what belongs, perhaps, more strictly to the history of the institution—the consideration, namely, of those various changes in its external and internal affairs which circumstances and a more mature experience have at different periods rendered necessary or advisable.

The first interesting event after the arrangements of the schools had been completed, was their removal from the academy in Fourth Street, to the more elegant and commodious building which they now occupy, and which was purchased by the trustees from the government of the state. As very erroneous impressions have been entertained by many of our citizens relative to the history of this edifice, we shall not perhaps be thought to transgress the limits proper to our subject, by relating briefly the circumstances which led to its erection, and those which afterwards occasioned its transfer. It is well known that in the year 1791, the Congress of the United States assembled in Philadelphia, in pursuance of a resolution of the previous session, by which the seat

of government was transferred from New York to this place. It comported as well with the dignity as with the interest of Pennsylvania, that her metropolis, which had thus become, for a time, the political centre of the Union, should be rendered in every way an acceptable residence to those who represented the national authority. Provision was accordingly made, at the public expense, for the suitable accommodation of the two houses of Congress; and by an act of the legislature, passed on the 30th of September, 1791, a large sum of money was appropriated for the building of a mansion to serve as a residence for the president of the United States, so long as Philadelphia should continue to be the seat of the national councils. In pursuance of this act, a lot was purchased, situated on the west side of Ninth Street, and extending from Market to Chesnut Streets, on which a building was commenced, appropriate, in extent of plan and solidity of structure, to the purpose for which it was designed. At various periods of its progress, further appropriations became necessary; and by the time of its completion, in the spring of 1797, its cost had amounted to little short of one hundred thousand dollars.

Among the motives which originally led to its erection, there can be no doubt that affectionate gratitude to the great man who then filled the presidency, was mingled with considerations of general policy; but nothing of this kind was expressed in the letter of the act, the provisions of which had reference solely to the office of chief magistrate, not to the person of any particular individual. It was probably from a knowledge of the feelings which actuated the legislature, that the opinion became and has continued very prevalent in this city, that the building was not only expressly designed for the use of Washington, but was even offered to his acceptance, and declined from a sense of the propriety of maintaining, in the exercise of his high duties, an independ-

ence, free alike from the reality and the suspicion of bias. The fact, however, is, that it was not completed till after his retirement from public office, and therefore could not have been applied to his accommodation in his character of president. It was Mr. Adams to whom the offer was made, and by whom it was declined. Towards this gentleman, however, the warmth of attachment was neither so intense nor so widely diffused; and conditions were annexed to the offer, certainly not contemplated in the original intentions of the legislature, and hardly compatible, as it appears to me, with the honour and dignity of the commonwealth. The grounds upon which Mr. Adams felt himself bound to decline the favour, were the obligations of that article of the constitution which forbids the receipt by the president either from an individual state, or from the United States, of any other emolument than the yearly salary attached to his office.\*

\* The following is an extract from a note, dated March 3d, 1797, addressed by Governor Mifflin to the president elect. "In the year 1791, the legislature of Pennsylvania directed a house to be built for the accommodation of the president of the United States, and empowered the governor to lease the premises. As the building will be completed in the course of a few weeks, permit me to tender it for your accommodation, and to inform you, that, although I regret the necessity of making any stipulation on the subject, I shall consider the rent for which you might obtain any other suitable house in Philadelphia, (and which you will be pleased to mention,) as a sufficient compensation for the use of the one now offered." The reply of Mr. Adams was promptly conveyed. "The respect to the United States," says he in a note of the same date with the above, "intended by the legislature of Pennsylvania in building a house for the president, will, no doubt, be acknowledged by the Union as it ought to be. For your kind offer of it to me, in consequence of their authority, I pray you to accept my respectful thanks, and to present them to the legislature. But as I entertain great doubts, whether by a candid construction of the constitution of the United States, I am at liberty to accept it, without the intervention and authority of Congress, and there is not time for any application to them, I must pray you to apologize for me to the legislature for declining the offer." See Journal of the House of Representatives of the Pennsylvania Legislature.



As the purpose for which the house had been built was now frustrated, and no other use to which it could be profitably applied presented itself, it became necessary so to dispose of the premises as to reimburse, as far as possible, the expense incurred by the state in their purchase and improvement. By a law passed in March, 1800, they were directed to be sold at public auction; and in July of the same year they were purchased by the university, for the moderate sum of forty-one thousand six hundred and fifty dollars, less than half their original cost. As the purchase money was to be paid by instalments, the trustees were enabled to meet the demands upon them by the disposal of stock, and the sale of a portion of the old college and adjoining premises. A part of this property in Fourth Street they were bound by the conditions of their title deeds to retain in their possession, for the maintenance of a charity school, and the accommodation of itinerant preachers.\* By letting on ground-rent those unoccupied lots of their new purchase which fronted on Market and Chesnut streets, they provided a permanent income, which has very materially lightened the pressure of the first cost upon their resources. Some alterations in the building necessary to fit it for the purposes to which it was now destined, were made immediately after it came into their hands; and a very extensive edifice has since been added for the use of the medical professors. The schools were not finally transferred to it till the spring of 1802.†

\* A part of the old academy was sold to a society of methodists, for whom it long served as a place of worship. This portion has recently been taken down and replaced by a new church. The northern half of the building is still standing and in possession of the trustees.—*January, 1834.*

† Since this account was written, the buildings alluded to have been taken down, and their place supplied by others, more symmetrical in their external appearance, and better adapted, in their internal arrangements, to the varied business of a great collegiate establishment. The new college hall was

## CHAPTER XII.

## LANGUISHING CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS IN THE UNIVERSITY.—DEFECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS UPON WHICH THIS CONDITION DEPENDED.

THE inquiry may now be reasonably made, whether the success of the university was such as to justify those high and apparently well grounded expectations to which the union of the schools had given rise. For the honour of Philadelphia, it would be well could we truly answer this question in the affirmative; but the fact is too notorious to be denied, that, with the exception of the pecuniary affairs, which were soon brought into good order and comparative prosperity, there was reason for several years rather to regret a still further depression, than to boast of an advancement in the fortunes of the institution. Since the first establishment of the college, there had scarcely been a period, unless during the severest commotions of the revolution, when the students in the higher branches were less numerous, or the reputation of the seminary at a lower ebb. In the philosophical school, consisting of the two highest classes, there were in the year 1797 only twelve students; the numbers qualified to graduate

opened for the reception of students in the autumn of 1830. During the progress of the building, the classes were accommodated in the old academy in Fourth Street. A representation of the former university edifice may be seen in the "Views in Philadelphia and its Vicinity," published in Philadelphia in 1827, by C. G. Childs.—*January, 1834.*

were in several instances so few, that it was deemed unnecessary and impolitic to hold commencements; and when the practice of conferring degrees publicly was resumed, it not unfrequently happened, that only five or six individuals appeared as candidates for the honours. It is not to be supposed that this state of things was regarded with indifference by the trustees: on the contrary, committees of investigation were frequently appointed; the sources of the evil were diligently explored; as each mistake or deficiency was rendered sensible, efforts were made to correct or supply it; till at length the features of the institution were completely changed, and its whole system so remodelled as to bring it into closer accordance with the character of the times, and to extend considerably its sphere of usefulness.

The historian of nations deems it his duty not only to record alternations of prosperity and misfortune, glory and disgrace; but also to search out and explain the causes of these changes, that useful lessons may thus be afforded to statesmen, and the good of the past augmented, and its evil diminished, by the example and warning it is made to hold out to the future. The same principle should influence the humbler author, who confines his attention to small communities; for they, too, may have successors to be benefited by the picture of their vicissitudes. No excuse, therefore, is necessary for attempting to expose the causes of the very low condition into which the university was depressed, at the close of the last, and commencement of the present century.

Among these causes may, perhaps, be included the practice of compensating the professors by fixed salaries, without allowing them any share in the proceeds of tuition. There is a *vis inertię* in mind as well as in matter, and the best men acknowledge that, to put forth their highest energies, they require the incitement of powerful motives. An



officer with a fixed salary, of which he neither fears the diminution nor expects the increase, without any apprehension, so long as he exhibits no gross negligence or misconduct, of losing his situation, and equally without the hope of higher advancement, will, if an honest man, perform punctually his prescribed routine of duties; but he will seldom be willing to sacrifice allowable gratifications, to devote to labour his hours of permitted leisure, to task, in fine, all his faculties to the utmost, with no other reward in view than the welfare of those by whom he may be employed, or of the institution to which he may be attached. In great seminaries, where so much depends upon the talents and energy of the teachers, the lukewarmness resulting from this want of strong personal interest, may be seriously felt in the languor of their operations, and the consequent disrepute into which, if not strongly supported by local attachments, or the force of opinion, they will be apt to fall. With regard to the school of Philadelphia, it may, indeed, be said, that the regulation alluded to, had been introduced at its origin, and had been maintained during its greatest prosperity. But at that early period, there was comparatively little competition to encounter; novelty itself afforded no moderate stimulus to exertion; and in the instability and immaturity of the infant establishment, there was, in fact, a strong inducement held out to the professors to spare no efforts which might tend to fix it on a more elevated and firmer basis, and thus render their own situation more honourable and secure. That afterwards, when age had given it stability, and its continued existence was secured by its own internal strength, the system of compensation by fixed salaries became highly injurious to its interests, cannot be reasonably doubted. The fact, indeed, was so obvious, that it at length attracted the notice and interference of the trustees, who in the spring of 1800, came to a resolution, that the professors, in addition to

their regular salaries, which at that time varied from two hundred and fifty to three hundred and fifty pounds per annum, should be entitled to the tuition money of their respective schools, thus giving them a motive for exertion which could not but be productive of favourable results.

These results, however, were not immediate. There were yet some radical errors, the injurious influence of which, so long as they were allowed to remain, no industry nor talent in the teachers could wholly counteract. But by their late resolve the trustees had brought a principle into action, which never rests till all its purposes are accomplished. The interests of the professors having become identical with those of the seminary, there now existed, in the faculty of arts, a body of men watchful over its concerns, quick-sighted in detecting all the weak parts of its structure, sagacious in discovering remedies for present evils and sources of new vigour, and eager to bring their views into practical application. The board of trustees, which, though composed of some of the wisest and best men in the community, is naturally slow in the formation of opinions, and still slower in its decisions, was quickened by this spirit of its own creation into clearer views and more energetic action. The subsequent changes may therefore be said to have grown out of that first regulation, which, planted in the principles of our nature, could not but spring up into vigorous and fruitful increase.

The system of the seminary was fundamentally wrong. In the first place, the professors had no sufficient bond of union by which, in the business of instruction, their efforts might harmonize, and their strength operate to the greatest advantage by being exerted in one direction. With the exception of the professors of moral and natural philosophy, who divided the philosophical classes between them, each had his distinct school, which he managed at his own discre-



tion, and the pupils of which had no other connexion with the university than such as arose from the office held by their teacher. With such an organization, the pursuit of any systematic course of instruction, if possible at all, must have been liable to continual interruptions, alike injurious to the scholar, and derogatory to the credit of the school.

Another evil existed in the want of proper classification among the students. The distinction between the collegiate and academical parts of the institution, which had never been sufficiently marked, was now scarcely perceptible. Almost every branch of knowledge considered essential in a course of education, from the lowest to the highest, was included in its scheme; and if we except the two philosophical classes, the students of every grade were mingled together, not only under the same roof, but in the same apartment, and under the same teachers; so that the boy learning the simplest rules of arithmetic, or the first lesson in grammar, was neighbour to the young man engaged in the highest mathematical and classical studies. In this absence of discrimination, an impolitic disregard was exhibited to that strongest feeling of the youthful breast, the desire of distinction; which gives to the priority of a few years in age, or a slight superiority of attainment, a degree of importance, the influence of which we are apt, in manhood, to forget or undervalue. To be associated as pupils in the same establishment, even to be seen coming out of the same door with children but just out of their petticoats, was to the elder students, who began to look upon themselves as young men, a highly disagreeable necessity; but to be mingled in the close fellowship of a school-room, was a degradation to which only the force of parental authority could induce them to submit. All whose own inclinations were consulted, were naturally induced to prefer some other seminary, where their claims to a proper consideration would be respected; and numbers were thus di-



rected away from the school of Philadelphia, whom the advantages of proximity, united with their local attachments, would otherwise have connected with it.

Another circumstance contributed to the same result. It is the custom in most colleges for the students to pursue their studies in private, and to be collected together in the presence of the professors for a short time only each day, for the recital of the prescribed lessons, or to attend the lectures which are usually given. But, by the regulations of the university, it was required that the scholars of the higher as well as lower classes should be detained for several hours, both in the morning and afternoon, within the walls of the seminary, where they were compelled to attend to their several subjects of study under the immediate eye of their teachers, being considered as too young or too giddy to be trusted to their own private exertions, and as needing some other incentive to exertion, than the desire of applause, fear of shame, or sense of duty.

From these causes it happened that the alumni of the university were not only few, but often of an age better adapted to the commencement than to the completion of a course of the higher studies; and the institution came to be regarded as a seminary of inferior grade, which, however well it might have been adapted to those circumstances of a young community in accordance with which it was originally established, had not kept pace with the general march of improvement, and was now behind many others of which it had formerly enjoyed the undoubted precedence.

## CHAPTER XIII.

NEW REGULATIONS.—INSTITUTION OF THE PHILOMATHEAN SOCIETY.—IMPROVED STATE OF THE SCHOOL.—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

IN the year 1810 a reformation was commenced by a complete separation of the seminary into two parts, the boundaries of which were distinctly marked, and their objects accurately defined. The students of the college, arranged into three classes—the freshman, junior, and senior—were placed under a faculty composed of three professors, who filled respectively the chairs of moral philosophy, of natural philosophy and the mathematics, and of the languages. Of these professors one was the provost, and the second the vice-provost of the university. The term of study was confined to three years; and the course of instruction embraced, together with the Latin and Greek classics, all those higher branches of learning and science which are usually taught in colleges. By a special determination of the board it was provided, that whenever punishments might be necessary, they should be directed exclusively to “a sense of duty, and the principle of honour and shame.” From this it would appear, that the students might previously have been subjected to occasional bodily chastisement—a degradation to which high-minded young men could not be expected to submit; and the liability to which, if it really did exist, must have had a great ef-

fect in lowering the general standard of character and attainment in the school, and bringing down its reputation to that inferior level upon which it stood for many years.

The resignation of Dr. Rogers gave the trustees an opportunity of abolishing the professorship of English and the belles-letters; and the English school, which, from the foundation of the institution had constituted a part of it, was shortly afterwards dissolved. Under the name of the academy, a grammar school was retained, in which were taught the various inferior branches of learning, necessary as a preparation for entering upon a collegiate course. Over this school was placed one or more teachers, without the title of professor, without any authority in the general management of the institution, and subject to the superintendence and control of the collegiate faculty. The charity schools, which constituted a third division of the department of arts, were also placed under the care of the faculty; so that the college, while in itself independent, was enabled to exercise over the inferior branches a degree of authority, sufficient to preserve them in accordance with its own interests, and to give the character of a regular system to all the operations of the seminary.

Such were the first steps in the path of improvement. Further advances were gradually made, as the way became clearer, and experience began to demonstrate the safety if not expediency of the course pursued. To raise the character of the college, higher qualifications for admittance were made requisite; and among these qualifications, a suitable age was considered essential. Formerly, boys had not unfrequently been permitted to pass through and receive the honours of the institution, whose immaturity of years was, of itself, a sufficient evidence of their unfitness for these honours; and men who beheld these unfledged *alumni*, could not but doubt the judgment and prudence of that *alma mater*, who



had sent them forth from her bosom while yet so incompetent to their own intellectual management. It was resolved that no applicant should be received into the lowest class under the age of fourteen; a time of life at which it was thought that the sense of honour might be sufficiently developed to serve as a motive for strenuous application, and the intellect sufficiently mature to render such application productive.

With the view of exciting emulation among the students, greater care was taken to apportion the several grades of honorary distinction at the commencements to the merits of the candidates; while, in the mean time, they were taught to feel more strongly the influence of public sentiment, and to allow it more authority over their conduct, by occasional exhibitions of their skill in oratory before respectable assemblages of citizens.

They were, moreover, encouraged to form among themselves an association, similar to those which exist in many other colleges in this country, and the influence of which has been found highly beneficial, both to the young men who belong to them, and to the seminaries under the auspices of which they have been established. In these societies, the charm of secrecy has been employed to attract new members, and to maintain a stronger interest among the old; while it is deprived of all mischievous tendency by the participation of the professors and other officers of the college. To be able fully to appreciate the importance of such institutions, we must revert to the period of our own youth, and call to mind the deep interest, the spirit at once of union and emulation, the kindly feelings towards each other united with the energetic determination to excel, inspired into us by their manlike exercises; and while dwelling on these recollections, we shall experience in the love with which our hearts warm and expand towards the scene of our young efforts, and the vivid desire which arises to witness and contribute to its

prosperity, a sure evidence of the lasting benefit which must flow to the seats of learning, from multiplying such sources of pleasant and affectionate association. The Philomathean Society of the University of Pennsylvania was founded in the year 1813, and still exists. The attention of the public is annually called to it by an address, commemorative of its origin, delivered by some one of its older members, appointed for the purpose.\*

Notwithstanding all these changes, there yet remained, in the plan and arrangement of the seminary, some errors which it was important to rectify. The period of three years, to which the college term was restricted, was insufficient for the completion, without extraordinary talent and industry, of the prescribed course of studies; and the proper qualifications for a degree could not therefore be so rigidly insisted on, as if a due portion of time had been allotted. Nor was the number of professors proportionate to the task of instruction, embracing as it did almost the whole circle of the sciences. Some branches were necessarily omitted or imperfectly taught; and thus, to the want of time, was added another cause for insufficient preparation on the part of the student. It naturally followed from these circumstances, that the requisites of graduation were considered lower, and consequently the honour of a degree less, in the university, than in most of the prominent colleges of the United States; and, as the regulation requiring a long attendance of the students upon the professors remained unaltered, and the grammar school, though entirely separate in its government and conduct from the college, was still maintained in the same building, and therefore frequently confounded with the higher department, the institution was not yet able to rise entirely out of that

\* Another society of a similar character, has since been instituted among the students of the university, under the name of the Zelosophic Society.—*January, 1834.*

reputation of inferiority, which had been attached to it from the period of the revolution.

The trustees, however, becoming sensible of these disadvantages, have recently made alterations, which, so far as regards the organization of the department of arts, leave little further to be desired. The grammar school has been removed from the building in Ninth Street, and located in the old academy; so that the collegians no longer incur the risk of being confounded with the inferior pupils, and are allowed to enjoy unalloyed the natural and salutary sense of importance belonging to their station. That other unsatisfactory regulation relative to the time of their attendance has also been altered; and in this respect they are now placed on a footing with the students of the highest and most respectable seminaries. The term of study has been extended to four years; another class has been added to the three previously existing; and the faculty has been augmented by the appointment of a tutor, and the institution of a fourth professorship.

Time has not been allowed, since the adoption of these regulations, for the full development of those good effects which may reasonably be expected from them; but the result of the changes which were made at an earlier period has been highly favourable. Since the year 1810, the university has certainly taken a higher standing than it had previously enjoyed. Its operations have been conducted with greater regularity; the courses of instruction have been more complete and efficient; and the annual number of graduates, varying from seven to thirty-four, has exhibited an increase of reputation and popularity, which though by no means equal to the wishes of its friends, or to its just claims, gives us a cheering assurance that the later improvements, which are but just beginning to be carried into effect, will not be fruitless in the end.

In the same spirit which originated the measures above



detailed, the board of trustees, in the year 1816, determined to institute a new department in the university, to be devoted more especially to the advancement of those branches of science which could not be advantageously brought within the scheme of the seminary as it then existed. It was evidently impossible, during the regular collegiate course, to acquire an intimate and thorough acquaintance with all the diversified subjects of human knowledge. All that could be aimed at with discretion, was the communication to the young student of such varied elementary instruction, as might enable him, in his subsequent career, to pursue beneficially any particular subject of study to which his interest or his genius might incline him. But there are many branches of science both ornamental and useful, which, even with the aid afforded by this elementary instruction, are still attended with so many difficulties, that the learner is apt to be discouraged at the threshold, and to turn away his steps towards some object of more easy attainment, but less honourable in the pursuit, and less advantageous in possession. These difficulties, consisting often in the want of practical and experimental illustrations of the facts and deductions of science, may be removed or greatly diminished by courses of lectures, delivered by well qualified professors, with the assistance of extensive cabinets of specimens, and a suitable apparatus. This remark is particularly applicable to those branches of knowledge which are designated by the general title of natural science. As the means requisite for the proper illustration of these subjects are often beyond the resources of individuals, it was thought by the board, that by constituting a faculty of professors, and affording them such facilities in the prosecution of their several courses of instruction as might be within the power of the university, they would be contributing towards the public good, and at the same time elevating the character of the institution over which

they presided. A department of natural science was accordingly created, embracing five professorships, which were immediately filled by the choice of men recommended either by their general talent, or by their peculiar fitness for the offices to which they were appointed. The duty of the professors was to give annual courses of lectures to the public, for which their remuneration was to consist in the fees of the attendants; and the advantages which they derived from the university, beside the honour of the connexion, were the gratuitous use of suitable apartments, and access to the apparatus belonging to the institution. Though the rule demanding annual courses has not been exactly complied with by all the gentlemen who have accepted professorships in this department, yet on the more important and popular subjects lectures have been regularly given, in some instances, to numerous classes; and the general result, if not so favourable as might have been anticipated, has been such as fully to justify the original adoption of the measure, and to give rise to the hope that much good may flow from it hereafter.

## CHAPTER XIV.

## STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY IN THE YEAR 1827.

IN order to complete the view which it is the object of this essay to lay before the public, it will be necessary to give an account of the arrangement and condition of the several departments of the university, as they exist at the present time.\* If in the execution of this task, some facts which are already familiar should be again brought into notice, it is hoped that the advantages to be derived from the integrity of the picture, will overbalance the irksomeness of the repetition.

The institution is under the control of a board of trustees, composed of twenty-four citizens of Pennsylvania, together with the governor of the state, who is *ex officio* president. This board is perpetual; and, in the exercise of its authority, is subject to no other limitations than such as are fixed by the several charters under which it acts. For the transaction of business a stated meeting is held every month, and special meetings are occasionally called when any important matter demands immediate attention; but, as in the management of so extensive an establishment, there are many objects which require a constant and vigilant superintendence,

\* It will be recollected by the reader, that the period here alluded to was the year 1827, when this account of the university was prepared. In any instance in which material alterations have been made since that period, the fact will be stated in a note, with the present date.—*January, 1834.*



the board divides itself into standing committees, to each of which some particular province is ascribed for its especial charge. The duties of secretary and treasurer are performed by an officer appointed by the board, who is compensated by a regular salary and a small commission upon the revenues of the institution.\*

The university is nominally divided into five distinct departments, those, namely, of the ARTS AND SCIENCES, of NA-

\* The names of all those who filled the office of trustee, from the origin of the school to the period at which the college and university were united, have been mentioned in previous notes. Those elected since that period, whose places have been vacated by death or resignation, are the following:—

Alexander James Dallas, Joseph B. McKean, Joseph Ball, Samuel M. Fox, Thomas M. Willing, Moses Levy, John T. Mifflin, John H. Brinton, John R. Coxe, Anthony Morris, Thomas M. Francis, William Tilghman late chief justice of Pennsylvania, Rev. James P. Wilson, George Fox, Zaccheus Collins, Thomas Duncan, Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, Robert Walsh jr., Rev. Thomas H. Skinner, and Rev. Thomas M'Auley.

The following gentlemen, exclusive of the governor of the state, compose the board, at the date of this note:—

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Right Rev. William White, D. D., | 13. Charles Chauncey, L. L. D.,      |
| 2. William Rawle, L. L. D.,         | 14. Joseph Hopkinson, L. L. D.,      |
| 3. Benjamin R. Morgan,              | 15. Joseph R. Ingersoll,             |
| 4. James Gibson,                    | 16. Rev. Philip F. Mayer, D. D.,     |
| 5. Horace Binney, L. L. D.,         | 17. Philip H. Nicklin,               |
| 6. William Meredith,                | 18. Rt. Rev. H. U. Onderdonk, D. D., |
| 7. Benjamin Chew,                   | 19. John C. Lowber,                  |
| 8. Robert Waln,                     | 20. James S. Smith,                  |
| 9. John Sergeant, L. L. D.,         | 21. Edward S. Burd,                  |
| 10. Thomas Cadwalader,              | 22. John Keating,                    |
| 11. Peter S. Duponceau, L. L. D.,   | 23. George Vaux,                     |
| 12. Nicholas Biddle.                | 24. Rev. William H. De Lancey, D. D. |

The reader acquainted with the general history of the Union, and the particular history of this state, will have observed, that, at every period of the existence of the school, the board of trustees has been remarkable for the number of its members distinguished in politics, literature, science, and the liberal professions; and a glance at the list of its present members will satisfy

TURAL SCIENCE, of GENERAL LITERATURE, of LAW, and of MEDICINE.

1. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.—This department consists of three parts, the *college*, the *academy* or *grammar schools*, and the *charity schools*.

The *college* is under the immediate government of a faculty, composed of four professors and a tutor, to whom, beside the business of instruction, are committed the duties of administering the general discipline of the seminary, and of representing to the trustees, in semi-annual reports, the exact condition both of the collegiate and academical classes.\*

him that it has not degenerated. We may, indeed, be proud as Philadelphians, that our city has been able to afford so many distinguished names as are to be found in the catalogue of those who have at different times directed the affairs of the college and university. The office of treasurer and secretary is now occupied by James C. Biddle, who succeeded Joseph Reed, late recorder of the city.—*January, 1834.*

\* Some alterations have been made in the arrangement of the faculty of arts since the year 1827. The four professorships remain as before; but an assistant professorship has been added. The office of tutor, referred to in the text, was also made an assistant professorship, which has, however, been recently abolished. In 1827, when this memoir was written, the members of the faculty were Rev. Frederick Beasley, D. D., provost and professor of natural philosophy; Robert M. Patterson, M. D., vice-provost and professor of natural philosophy; James G. Thompson, professor of languages; and Garret Van Gelder, tutor. The professorship of mathematics, which was then vacant, was soon afterwards supplied by the election of Robert Adrain, L. L. D. It is well known that, since the period above mentioned, great changes have taken place in the faculty, so that not one of those who then occupied chairs is now connected with the institution. The faculty of arts at present consists of the following members:—

Rev. William H. De Lancey, D. D., acting Professor of Moral Philosophy, and acting Provost of the University;

Robert Adrain, L. L. D., Professor of Mathematics and Vice-provost of the University;

Rev. Samuel B. Wylic, D. D., Professor of the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin Languages;

Alexander Dallas Bache, Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry;

Henry Reed, Assistant Professor of Moral Philosophy.

The offices of provost and vice-provost of the university are held respectively by two of these professors. It is the duty of the provost, and in his absence of the vice-provost, "to visit and superintend the various schools and departments; to see that the rules and statutes of the trustees are duly carried into effect; and to advise and suggest such alterations and improvements as he may deem best calculated to promote the welfare and usefulness of the institution."

The compensation of the professors, if not ample, is at least respectable. Beside a fixed salary, which to the provost is one thousand dollars, to the vice-provost nine hundred, and to each of the other professors about eight hundred and fifty, they severally have the use of one of the houses belonging to the university, or an equivalent sum in money, and divide equally between them the proceeds of tuition. They are moreover entitled to a small sum from every graduate in the arts; and the provost and vice-provost derive a considerable addition to their income from the fees which they receive upon affixing their signatures to the medical diplomas.\*

The number of classes is four, distinguished by the usual titles of *freshman*, *sophomore*, *junior*, and *senior*. One year is appropriated to each class; so that the whole college

With the exception of Mr. Reed, these gentlemen immediately succeeded those above mentioned, as filling the same offices. The predecessor of Mr. Reed, and the first assistant professor of moral philosophy was the late Rev. Edward Rutledge. Thomas McKinley and the Rev. Christian F. Cruse, successively after M. Van Gelder, held the place of tutor or assistant professor, now abolished.

Dr. De Lancey has resigned his station in the university, but continues to occupy it temporarily, till a successor can be provided. The Rev. Philip Lindsley, D. D., has been elected, but has not yet signified his acceptance of the office.—*January*, 1834.

\* The mode of compensating the professors has undergone some alteration since this was written. They now receive a fixed salary without any share of the tuition money.—*January*, 1834.



term extends to four years. The requisites for admission into the lowest or freshman class are, that the applicant should not be under the age of fourteen; that he should have been taught arithmetic, and the rudiments of geography; and that he should have read, in the Latin language, Virgil, Sallust, and the Odes of Horace; in the Greek, the New Testament, Lucian's Dialogues, Xenophon's Cyropædia, and the Græca Minora of Dalzel. The course of study embraces the highest Greek and Latin classics, with Grecian and Roman antiquities; the mathematics from algebra to fluxions; natural philosophy, chemistry, and geography in all its branches; ancient and modern history, grammar, rhetoric, logic, moral philosophy, and metaphysics. The students are also exercised in writing Greek and Latin, in English composition, and in the art of speaking.\*

\* Since the year 1827, considerable changes have been made in the course of instruction, which is believed at present to be as comprehensive as that pursued in any similar institution in the United States. The following regulations are extracted from the Catalogue of the University, published by order of the trustees in January, 1834.

"To be admitted into the Freshman Class, a student must be at least fourteen years of age. He must be qualified for examination on the following subjects and authors:—*Latin*. Cæsar, Virgil, Sallust, Odes of Horace.—*Greek*. New Testament, the Four Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles of Peter. Xenophon, first three books. Græca Minora, or Jacob's Greek Reader.—Quantity and scanning in each language.—*English*. The elements of English grammar and of modern geography.—*Arithmetic*, including fractions and the extraction of roots.

"No student is admitted to advanced standing without the fullest preparation for the class into which he applies for admission.

#### "COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN THE COLLEGE.

"FRESHMAN CLASS.—*Mathematics*. Algebra, including simple and quadratic equations, surds, cubic, and biquadratic equations. Approximations. Converging series, &c.—*Classics*. Five books of Livy. Horace's Satires. The Epistle to the Hebrews. Selections from Herodotus. Latin and Greek exercises. Roman and Grecian Antiquities.—*English*. English Grammar,

The pupils of each class are submitted to semi-annual examinations in the presence of a committee of the trustees; and those who do not acquit themselves satisfactorily, are not allowed to proceed.

(Lowth's English Grammar) and Geography reviewed. Ancient History, (Lardner's Outlines of History.) Readings in Prose and Poetry. Written Translations from ancient authors. Declamation.

"SOPHOMORE CLASS.—*Mathematics*. Elements of Geometry, (Legendre's Geometry.) Logarithms. Plane Trigonometry. Surveying, Mensuration, &c.—*Classics*. Cicero de Oratore. Terence. Cicero's Orations. Horace's Epistles. Selections from Thucydides, Xenophon, Demosthenes, Lysias, Isocrates, Plato and Ælian, Homer's Iliad, Latin and Greek exercises.—*Nat. Philosophy*. Elements of Mechanics, (Library of Useful Knowledge, or Lardner's Mechanics and Hydrostatics.)—*English*. History, (Mackintosh's History of England.) Rhetoric, (Whately's Rhetoric.) English composition. Declamation.

"JUNIOR CLASS.—*Mathematics*. Spherical Geometry and Trigonometry. Perspective Geography, including the Use of the Globes and Construction of Maps and Charts. Analytical Geometry, including conic sections, (Young's Analytical Geometry.) Elements of the Differential Calculus, with applications, (Young's Differential Calculus.)—*Classics*. Art of Poetry. Juvenal. Quintilian's Institute. Review of Selected Odes of Horace. Cicero de Officiis. Selections from the Odyssey, Hesiod, Apollonius Rhodius, Sophocles, Euripides, Theocritus, Pindar, &c.—*Nat. Philosophy and Chemistry*. General doctrines of equilibrium and motion. Equilibrium and motion of solids and fluids, (Cambridge Mechanics.) Theory and Construction of Machines, (Application of Descriptive Geometry.)—Heat, (Turner's Chemistry.) Electricity, including Galvinism. Magnetism. Electro-magnetism, (Roget in Library of Useful Knowledge.) Philosophy of Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry commenced. (Turner's Chemistry.)—*English*. History continued. Moral Philosophy. Logic, (Whately's Logic.) English compositions. Written discussions.

"SENIOR CLASS.—*Mathematics*. Elements of the Integral Calculus, with applications. Variations of Lagrange. Analytical Mechanics, (Young's Analytical Mechanics, and Lectures.)—*Classics*. Former authors reviewed or completed. Longinus. Tacitus.—*Nat. Philosophy and Chemistry*. Astronomy, (Gummere's Astronomy.) Optics, (Brewster's Optics.) Steam-engine, (Lardner on the Steam-engine and lectures.) Inorganic Chemistry completed. Organic Chemistry, (Turner's Chemistry.)—*English*. Evidences



Punishments are confined to private or public admonition or reproof, degradation, suspension, dismissal, and expulsion. All but the two last may be inflicted by order of a majority of the faculty:—these, as they are the most serious, and are liable to affect injuriously the character and future prospects of the young man, require the sanction of the board. Between the punishments of dismissal and expulsion there is this difference, that after the former a student may be reinstated by a vote of the trustees, while the latter totally disqualifies him for readmission into the institution, and for receiving any of its honours. The board, however, do

of Natural and Revealed Religion. Intellectual Philosophy. Law of Nations and Political Law, (Kent's Commentaries.) English composition. Forensic discussions.

“On every Saturday members of the Senior Class deliver original essays in the chapel.

“*French, Spanish, and German*, may be pursued, if required by parents.

“On each day of the week, except Saturday, there are not more than four nor less than three recitations of one hour each for every class. On Saturday each class recites once.

“All the classes, except the Senior class, recite both in the morning and afternoon.

“The instructions of the college are conveyed in part by lectures, but principally by the study of the most approved text books, aided by the explanations of the professors. The diligence of the student is tested by rigid daily examinations. The character of each recitation is recorded, and the results communicated to parents or guardians in the middle or at the end of each term. At the end of each term, public examinations of the classes are held by the faculty; and the students are classed in the order of merit.

“Defective students are not allowed to proceed to a higher class, and incompetent students are dismissed from the institution.

“Negligent and indolent students are transferred to a lower class when unable to proceed with the studies of their own class.”

Instruction in the French, Spanish, and German languages, is given to those students who may desire it, by teachers appointed by the trustees.—*January, 1834.*



not call upon other schools to exclude the students who may have been expelled from their own; nor, though more than once invited to come into an agreement to this effect, do they consider themselves bound to refuse admittance to those who may have incurred expulsion elsewhere; but reserving to themselves the privilege of judging of the circumstances of each case, decide according to their own opinion of its merits. That disposition which would fix an indelible mark of disgrace upon the forehead of a young man, however guilty, and would shut up against him the path of repentance and returning honour, savours rather of revenge and persecution, than of that spirit of beneficence which chastens only for good; and it is placing too much power in the hands of any set of men, other than the public tribunals of the country, to enable them, whether from a sense of justice, or from any worse motive, for ever to cut off from the youth who may have incurred their displeasure, all access to the fountains of instruction, and thus perhaps to blast prospects which may have opened upon him with the fullest and brightest promise.

The price of tuition in the collegiate classes is sixty dollars for one year, more than five times the amount demanded by the college before the revolution.\*

Two scholarships have been founded upon the funds of the institution, the right of nomination to which belongs to the heirs of Thomas Penn. This arrangement originated in the conditions of the grant, made by that gentleman to the late college and academy, of his fourth part of the manor of Perkasié. In the deed of conveyance, dated July 21st, 1759, it was provided that the trustees should never dispose of their interest in the estate, and that when the income from it should amount to two hundred pounds per annum, they

\* The price is now twenty-five dollars for each term, or seventy-five dollars a year.—*January, 1834.*

should educate, maintain, and clothe two persons of the nomination of the grantors or his heirs; and it was also provided, that if these conditions should not be complied with, or in case of a dissolution of the corporation, the land should revert to the original owner or to those who might represent him. The number of acres was about two thousand five hundred, and the rent at the period of the conveyance was forty-three pounds. In the year 1813 the rent is stated at more than six hundred bushels of wheat; an increase which strikingly exemplifies the great nominal rise in the value of property. It appears from the minutes of the board of trustees, that they had always been desirous of selling this land, as the sum which it would command might be invested so as to produce an income far greater in amount than any rent which could be obtained. But as the sanction of the proprietor was necessary before a sale could be made, and upon application from the trustees he expressed his unwillingness to give the desired permission, the design was dropped for the time, and the lands remained as before. Several partial efforts were afterwards made, which either ended in the appointment of committees, or failed from a want of proper attention in the progress of the affair. At length, in the year 1816, the board determined to exert themselves for the attainment of the object; and, as a preliminary measure, passed a resolution pledging the income of the university for the education and maintenance of any two individuals at one time, and of an equal number for ever, whom the heirs of the late proprietor might nominate. Thus originated the "Penn foundation," the establishment of which was merely the transfer of an obligation before attached to the possession of the Perkasié lands, to the general funds of the university; and was very properly considered by the board as a necessary proceeding on their part, before permission to sell these lands could be decently requested. Application being now made to John Penn, the



descendent and heir of Thomas Penn, a release of the condition annexed to the original grant was readily obtained; and in the year 1817 the whole estate was sold for the sum of sixty thousand five hundred dollars, a portion of which was paid in cash, and the remainder secured by bond and mortgage. It has been mentioned on a former occasion, that the purchasers were unable to meet their engagements; and that much of the property has in consequence reverted to the university.

Connected with the collegiate department of the university is a library, which, though not very extensive, contains many rare and highly valuable works. The donation of the king of France, and the bequest of Dr. M'Dowell have already been alluded to. Presents for the library have been received from other sources: among them may be mentioned a number of Bengalee books from the Rev. Wm. Carey, baptist missionary in India. Appropriations are occasionally made by the trustees for its increase; and a standing committee, in whose charge it has been placed, are directed to purchase, as occasion may offer, such works as they may think suitable, "particularly all publications connected with the past and present condition of the United States."

There is also connected with the same department a philosophical apparatus, which has been gradually increasing since the foundation of the school, and is at present one of the most valuable and extensive collections of this kind, existing in America.\*

With all these recommendations, it might be reasonably expected that the college would be crowded with students; but the new regulations, by which it has been placed on its present footing, are too recent to have produced any of those

\* The apparatus has been considerably augmented since the period alluded to in the text. I have been assured that it is now at least equal to that of any collegiate establishment in the United States.—*January, 1834.*



good effects which may be ultimately expected from them; and the number of students, therefore, differs little from the average of the last ten or fifteen years, which may be stated at about fifty.\*

Of the *academy*, which is the second division of the department of arts, it is necessary to say but little. Under this title are included two grammar schools—one in the charge of the Rev. James Wiltbank, located in the old Fourth Street academy; the other, a seminary situated in the western part of the city, which has long been conducted by Messrs. Wiley and Engles, and has recently come into connexion with the university. Over these schools a general superintendence is exercised by the faculty of arts, assisted by a committee of the board; and a course of instruction is pursued calculated to prepare the scholars for admission into the collegiate classes. The teachers are compensated by the proceeds of tuition, and receive from the university no other advantage than the influence of its name, and, in the instance of the first mentioned school, the use of a suitable room free from rent. The price of tuition is twelve dollars a quarter; and the number of scholars generally exceeds one hundred.†

The *charity schools* are a highly interesting branch of the seminary. The circumstances of their origin, and the

\* Under the influence of the new spirit which has been infused into this department of the university within the last few years, the number of pupils has greatly augmented. According to the catalogue published in 1832, the members of the four college classes amounted to one hundred and twenty-six. The number at present is ninety-four.—*January, 1834.*

† The academical department at present embraces a classical and English school, under the charge of a principal, who teaches the classics, an English teacher, and three assistants. The present principal is the Rev. Samuel W. Crawford, who is assisted by Theophilus A. Wylie and William Alexander. The English teacher is Thomas M'Adam, and his assistant Thomas M'Adam jr. The number of pupils at present in the academy is one hundred and eighty-four.—*January, 1834.*

obligations which bind the trustees to their continued support, have been already detailed. From the foundation of the academy to the present time, two schools, one for boys, the other for girls, have been constantly maintained out of the general funds of the institution; and the average number of scholars receiving instruction in them has been about one hundred. In the year 1823, a third school was established under the following circumstances. A citizen of Philadelphia, by the name of John Keble, upon his death in 1807, left the residue of a considerable estate to be applied to such charitable objects as might be appointed by the Right Rev. Bishop White, and other persons designated in the will. Conceiving that the promotion of education among the poor was the most effectual charity, and having full confidence in the stability of the university, and the uprightness of those who had the direction of its affairs; these gentlemen were convinced that they should best acquit themselves of their charge, by appropriating the property to this institution, in trust that it should be kept a distinct fund for the extension of the boys' charity school. The appropriation was made in March, 1809, at which time the estimated value of the property was nearly ten thousand dollars. Most of it, however, being real estate, and not very productive, the income was deemed too small for immediate and advantageous application. The fund was therefore allowed to accumulate for several years, till, in 1823, it had become sufficiently ample to authorize the establishment of a new school, to be maintained exclusively out of its annual proceeds. Thus originated the *Keble Charity School*, which is now in a flourishing condition, containing about fifty scholars. The income of the whole Keble fund is at present estimated at one thousand dollars. That portion of it which is not applied to the support of the school, is added to the principal, and thus made productive.

All the charity schools are "subject to the inspection, su-

perintendence, and control of the professors of the collegiate department and a committee of the board." The children who attend them, to the number of about one-hundred and fifty, are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic; and the whole expense of their instruction, including the salaries of teachers, the rent of rooms, the cost of books, and other incidental charges, is little, if at all short of two thousand dollars per annum.

2. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCE.—The present condition of this department is by no means flattering. There are nominally five professorships—those of natural philosophy, of botany, of natural history, of mineralogy and chemistry applied to agriculture and the arts, and of comparative anatomy. A regulation of the department requires that annual courses of lectures should be publicly delivered by each of the professors; but it has been only partially complied with. We have been favoured with highly valuable courses, from Dr. Patterson upon natural philosophy, from Dr. William P. C. Barton upon botany, and from William H. Keating upon chemistry and mineralogy; but the last of these gentlemen is now absent from the country, Dr. Barton has attached himself to another institution, and the professor of natural philosophy is at present the only efficient member of the faculty. It would be a source of great regret, should an establishment which promised so much honour to the university, and so much good to the community, be allowed to fail. The public patronage, however, affords an insufficient compensation for the labour and talents which are requisite for a proper performance of the duties of the several professorships; and it is hardly probable that this department will ever prosper, unless the trustees should be able, from their own funds, to supply the deficiency of public support, by salaries adequate to the services required.\*

\* This department of the university, which the establishment of the



In connexion with the subject of natural science, it may be proper to mention, that by act of assembly, in the year 1807, a grant of three thousand dollars was made to the trustees of the university, out of the money due by them to the state, "for the purpose of enabling them to establish a garden for the improvement of the science of botany, and for instituting a series of experiments to ascertain the cheapest and best food for plants, and their medical properties and virtues." A lot of ground suitable for such a purpose has been purchased, the care of which, and of the means necessary for its improvement has been entrusted to a standing committee of the board. But the appropriation of the legislature was too small to be efficiently applied without the addition of a much larger sum; and, as the income of the university, absorbed in the support of its existing establishment, will admit of no further expenditure, the enterprise, though not altogether abandoned, is necessarily suffered to languish. At present, the public resources are so deeply involved in the prosecution of measures vast in their extent, and rich in their promise of future prosperity to the state, that objects of less importance are perhaps wisely overlooked. But when the promise of these measures shall have been fulfilled, we may reasonably hope that the overflowings of the public treasury will be largely directed into the fields of science, and that the botanic garden of the university will be among the first to feel their reviving and invigorating influence.

3 and 4. The DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL LITERATURE and the DEPARTMENT OF LAW, are at present altogether nominal. Each of them contains a single professorship: but that of law is vacant by the recent death of Charles W. Hare; and that of general literature, though occupied by a gentleman whose qualifications for the office might safely challenge a compa-

Franklin Institute has rendered unnecessary, has been abolished.—*January*, 1834.

rison with those of any other man in the country, does not afford sufficient inducements to call off his attention from more pleasing or more profitable pursuits.\*

5. THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.—In this department the business of instruction is committed to six professors, occasionally assisted by adjuncts, who, like their principals, are appointed by the trustees. These professors constitute a faculty, to which, subject to the rules and statutes of the board, belongs the government of the medical school, and the arrangement of all the affairs of the department. One of their number, with the title of dean, is appointed to perform the duties of secretary to the faculty, and to act as their organ of communication with the students. The medical professors receive no salary; but the profits of their lectures render their office highly productive. The following is a list of the several professors, with the chairs which they respectively occupy:—

Philip Syng Physick, M. D., Professor of Anatomy;

Nathaniel Chapman, M. D., Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic, and of Clinical Medicine;

William Gibson, M. D., Professor of Surgery;

John Redman Coxe, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica, and of Pharmacy;

Robert Hare, M. D., Professor of Chemistry;

Thomas C. James, M. D., Professor of Midwifery;

William E. Horner, M. D., Adjunct Professor of Anatomy; and

William P. Dewees, M. D., Adjunct Professor of Midwifery.

Full courses of lectures, about four months in duration, are annually delivered upon each of these branches, with the single exception of the institutes of medicine, which being attached to the subject of the practice, of itself the most copi-

\* Both these departments have been abolished.—*January, 1834.*

ous in the whole round of the science, forms a burden too heavy for the powers of one individual, however expanded may be his intellect, and vigorous his application. It is to be hoped, however, that means will be provided to supply this deficiency, either by the appointment of an adjunct, or by the creation of a new professorship. It is indeed impossible, that in a system of instruction, in all other respects so perfect, one of the chief pillars upon which the science of medicine rests, should be long allowed to be wanting.\*

The degrees conferred in the medical department are those of Doctor of Medicine, and Master of Pharmacy. To be admitted to the former of these honours, it is required that the candidate should have attained the age of twenty-one years; should have been three years engaged in the study of medicine, and at least two years of this period under some respectable practitioner; should have attended two full courses of lectures in the university,† and one course of clinical instruction in the Pennsylvania Hospital or city Alms-house; should have written a dissertation on some medical subject, to be approved by the faculty; and, finally, have undergone a satisfactory examination by the professors, as to the extent of his acquirements, and his fitness for the practice of the profession.

Every medical student, upon entering the university, is

\* Since this account was written, Dr. Physick has retired from the school with the title of "Emeritus Professor of Surgery and Anatomy;" and has been succeeded by his former adjunct, Dr. Horner. The deficiency noticed in the text in relation to the institutes of medicine, has been supplied by the appointment of Samuel Jackson, M. D., as assistant to the professor of the institutes and practice of physic and clinical medicine.—*January, 1834.*

† With regard to this requisite, an exception is made in favour of those who have attended one or more courses in any respectable medical school in which the same subjects are taught as in the university of Pennsylvania. Of these it is only required that they should attend one full course of the medical lectures.



obliged to pay five dollars as a matriculating fee. The price of admittance to the course of each profession is twenty dollars; and the aggregate cost of tuition for two years is two hundred and forty dollars.\* The expenses of graduation amount to forty dollars, of which each of the principal medical professors receives five, the provost three, the vice-provost two, and five dollars are paid to the secretary of the board of trustees, which, after defraying the cost of the diploma, is appropriated to the increase and preservation of the anatomical museum.

As young men of high natural endowments, and strong inclination to the medical profession, are often deterred from entering into it by their inability to bear the necessary charges, a proposition was very generously made by the faculty to the board of trustees, that a permanent provision should be made for the gratuitous education of six students, to be selected from among those who might appear most deserving, and most in need of assistance. A regulation to this effect was accordingly adopted, and has now been several years in force. A committee is annually appointed by the board, who give public notice that they will receive applications for gratuitous tickets of admission to the lectures; and at a suitable time previously to the commencement of the regular courses, the several applications which have been handed in are examined and decided on. In every instance, testimonials are required, that the applicant is of good moral character, and of studious habits; that his literary attainments are respectable; and that his circumstances are such as to render him a suitable object of the gratuity.

The number of students attending the medical lectures in the university averages about four hundred and fifty; and the

\* After attending two courses of each professor, the student has the privilege of being admitted to the lectures without charge.

annual number of graduates has for the last five years varied from ninety-six to one hundred and thirty-one.\*

The degree of Master of Pharmacy was instituted, a few years since, with the very laudable view of improving the profession of the apothecary, which in this city has assumed an importance far beyond what it possesses in other parts of the United States. Any person is entitled to the degree, who shall have served an apprenticeship of at least three years with a respectable apothecary, and attended two courses of lectures on chemistry and materia medica in the university. Advantages would no doubt have accrued from this accession to the original plan of the medical department, had it not been superseded by the establishment by the apothecaries themselves of a distinct school, which, being under their own management, and directed to the one object of advancing the usefulness and respectability of the profession, is naturally more popular, and at least equally efficient.

Reference has been made, on a previous occasion, to the existence of an anatomical museum, connected with the department of medicine. It is generally known among medical men, that the late Dr. Wistar was indefatigable in collecting together specimens and preparations both in healthy and morbid anatomy, with models and other representations of parts of the human frame, calculated to illustrate his course of anatomical lectures; and they who have had the pleasure of listening to his instruction well remember, how delightfully plain and lucid the most intricate and obscure parts of his subject were rendered by his sedulous efforts to demonstrate to the eye, what could not be well understood from description alone. After his death, his family presented to the uni-

\* In the winter of 1824-5, there were four hundred and eighty-four students in the medical class. For the last seven years they have averaged about four hundred. The number attending the present course is four hundred and thirty-one.—*January, 1834.*

versity this extensive and highly valuable collection, which was thankfully received by the trustees, and in honour of its distinguished author, as well as in commemoration of the liberality of the gift, was styled the Wistar museum. A suitable apartment was provided for its reception; and appropriations of money were from time to time made for its preservation and increase. In the year 1824 it was greatly enlarged by the addition of the anatomical collection of the Pennsylvania Hospital, which the managers of that institution, with an honourable liberality, transferred to the charge of the trustees of the university, under the impression, that, in the medical school, it might be applied to more useful purposes than it could be, if retained in their own possession. The whole museum is placed under the immediate care of the professor of anatomy, who finds, in its diversified contents, the means of giving greater interest and increased efficiency to his lectures.

In this account of the university, it is believed that all the facts, worthy of notice have been embraced. The reader will have perceived, that in the composition of the whole memoir, nothing higher has been aimed at than simple and perspicuous narration: he will therefore be guided in forming a judgment of its merits, less by the manner in which it has been executed, than by the value of the matter it contains. Judged even upon this principle, it may be thought by some undeserving of the space which it occupies: but it pretends only to local interest; and if it excite among the inhabitants of Philadelphia increased attention to the claims of an institution which is intimately connected with the honour and welfare of the city, it will have accomplished the chief object for which it was written.

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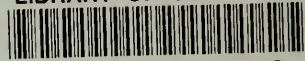








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